

## SEA ROUTE TO INDIA

The spices of India can take credit for inspiring some of the greatest maritime expeditions in the world. In a bid to find the sea route to India, European explorers like Bartholomew Diaz, Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama braved uncharted seas, discovered new lands and earned fame and glory for themselves. But for India, the opening of the trade route was both a blessing and a curse.

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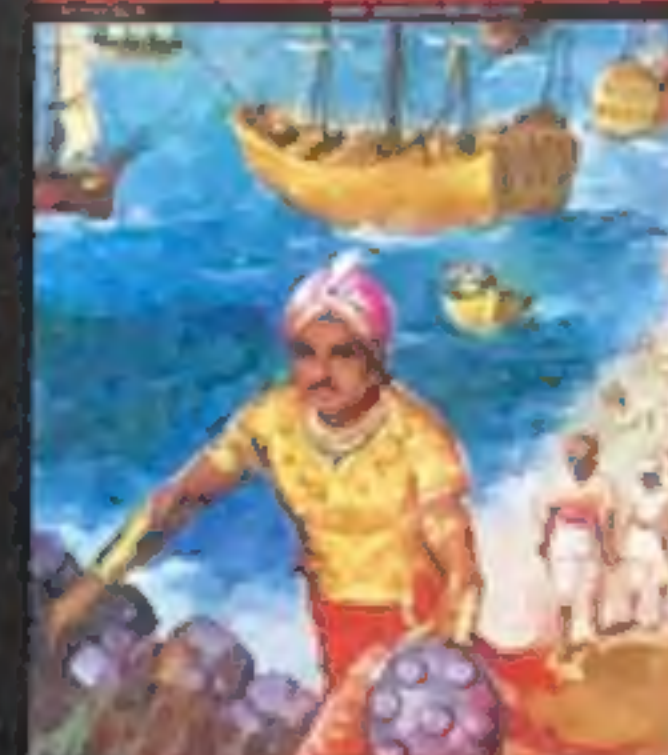
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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

BRAVEHEARTS



# SEA ROUTE TO INDIA

IN QUEST OF THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION

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# Sea Route to India



THREE TRADE ROUTES, CONNECTING THE EAST WITH THE WEST, MET AT CONSTANTINOPLE\* MAKING IT THE MAJOR TRADE CENTRE OF THE TIMES. ARAB MERCHANTS BROUGHT MERCHANDISE FROM INDIA AND THE FAR EAST AND SOLD IT TO EUROPEAN TRADERS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

FROM CONSTANTINOPLE THESE TRADERS TOOK THE MERCHANDISE BY SHIPS TO VENICE...



...AND FROM THERE TO OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE.

SO WHEN CONSTANTINOPLE WAS TAKEN BY THE TURKS, IN 1453, FREE PASSAGE OF INDIAN GOODS WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE.

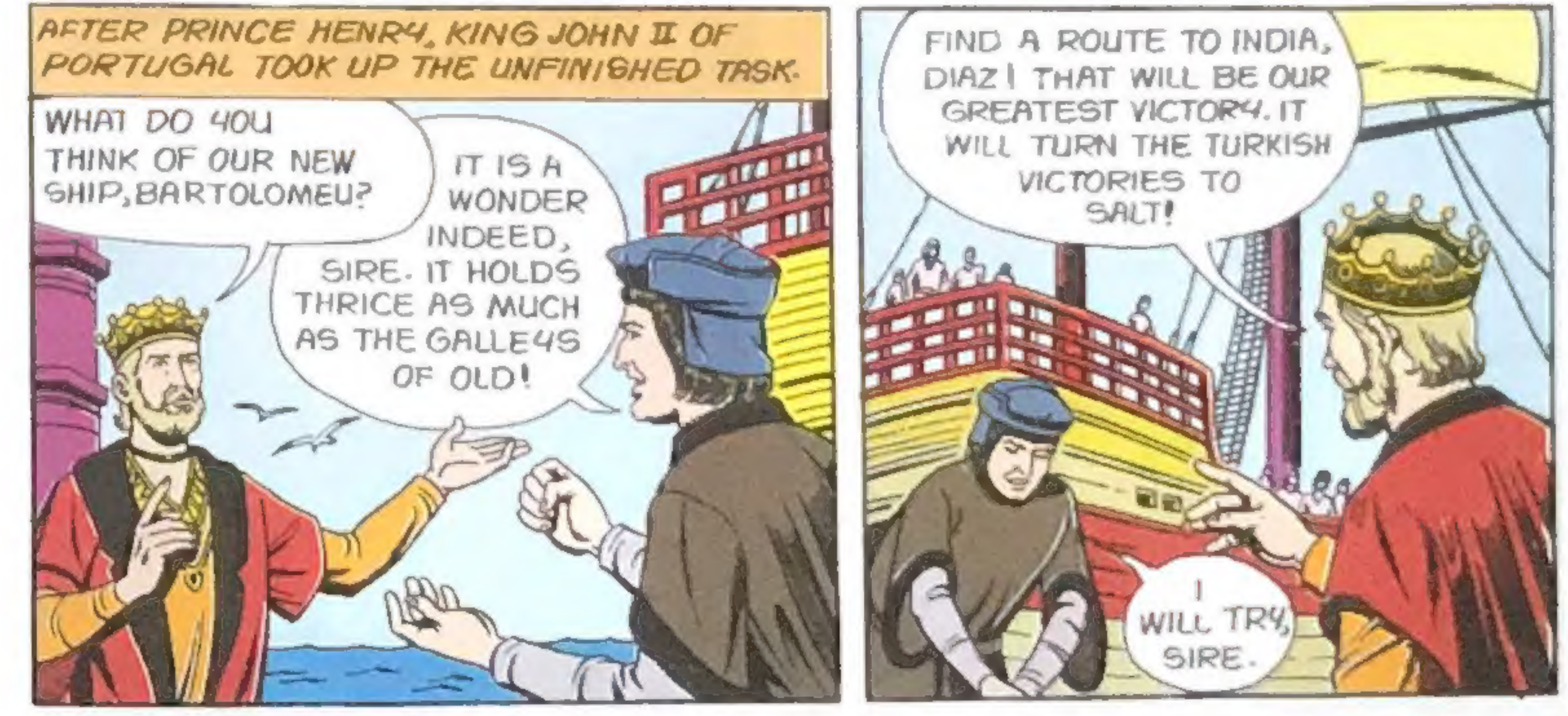
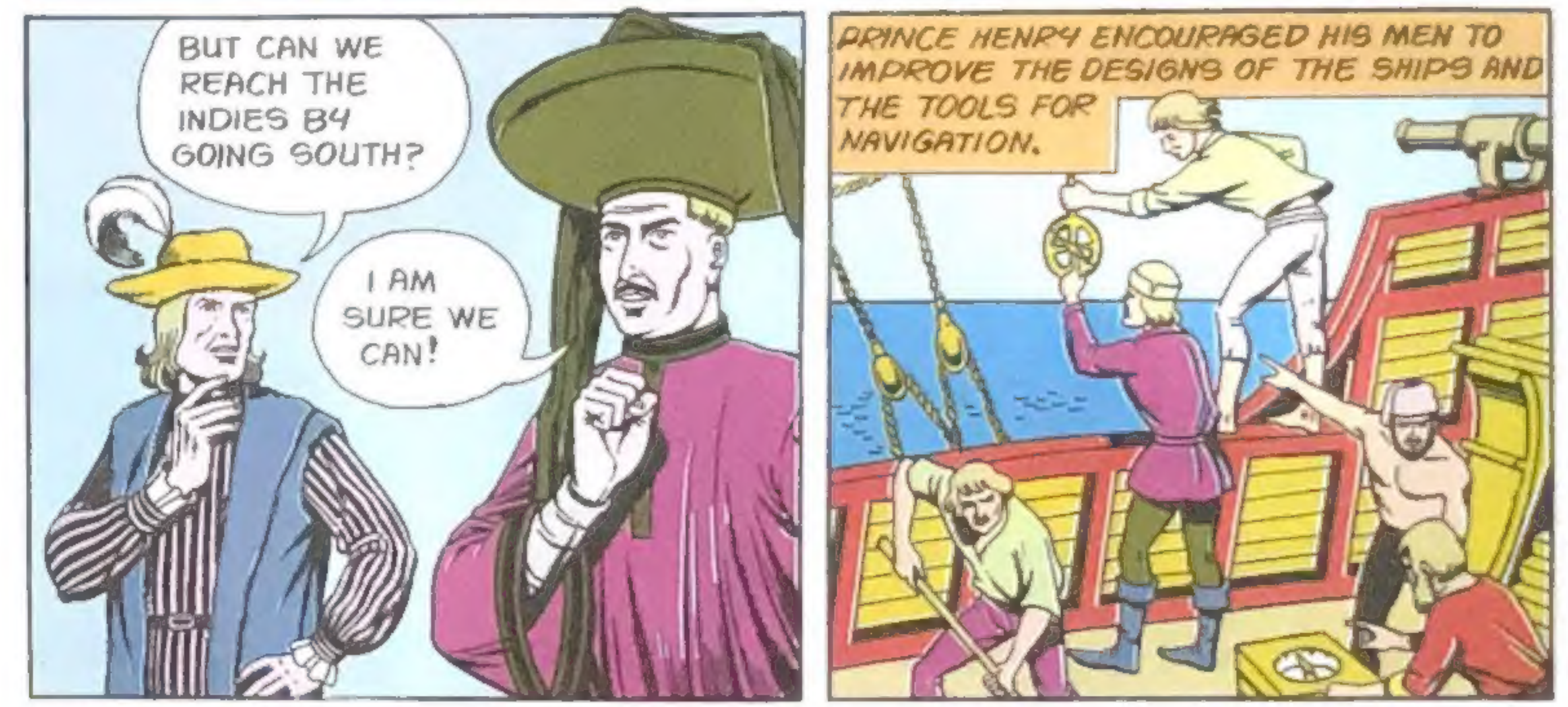
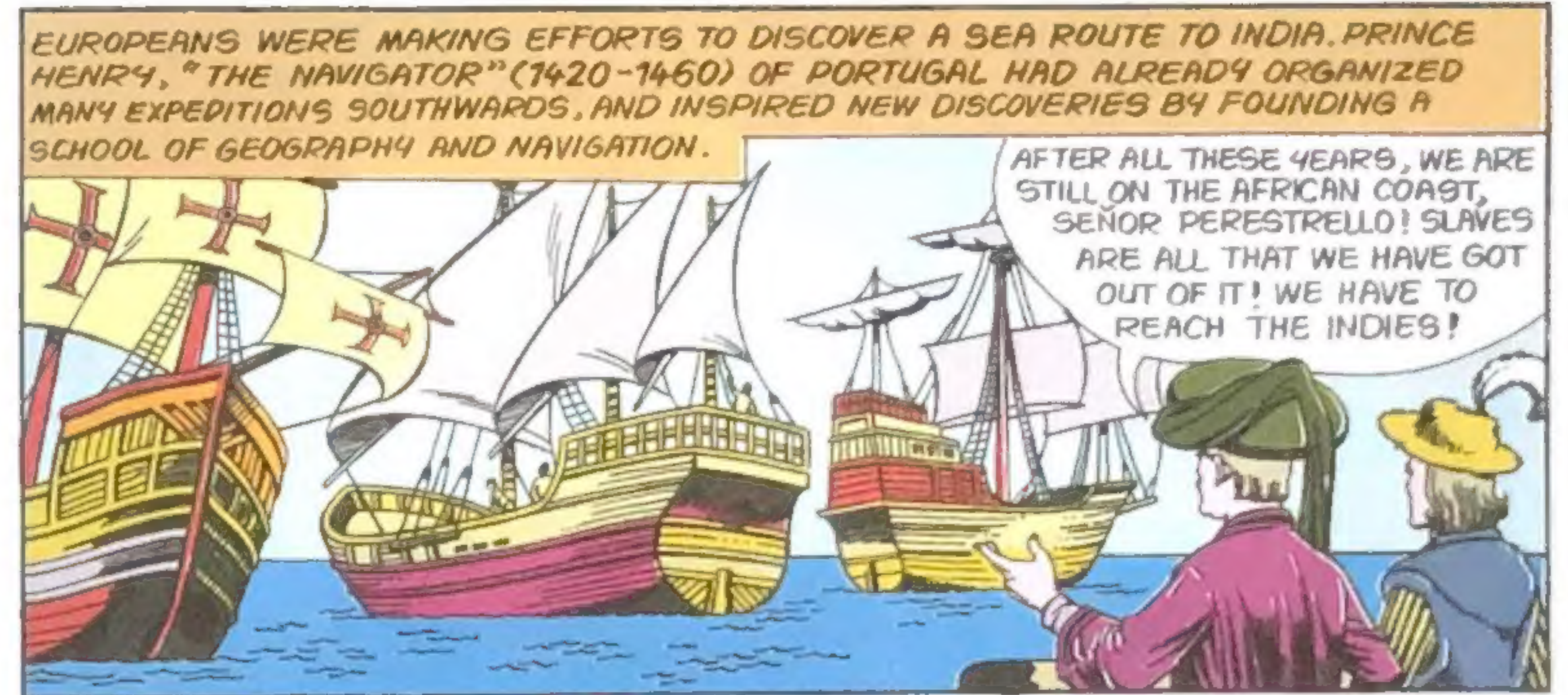
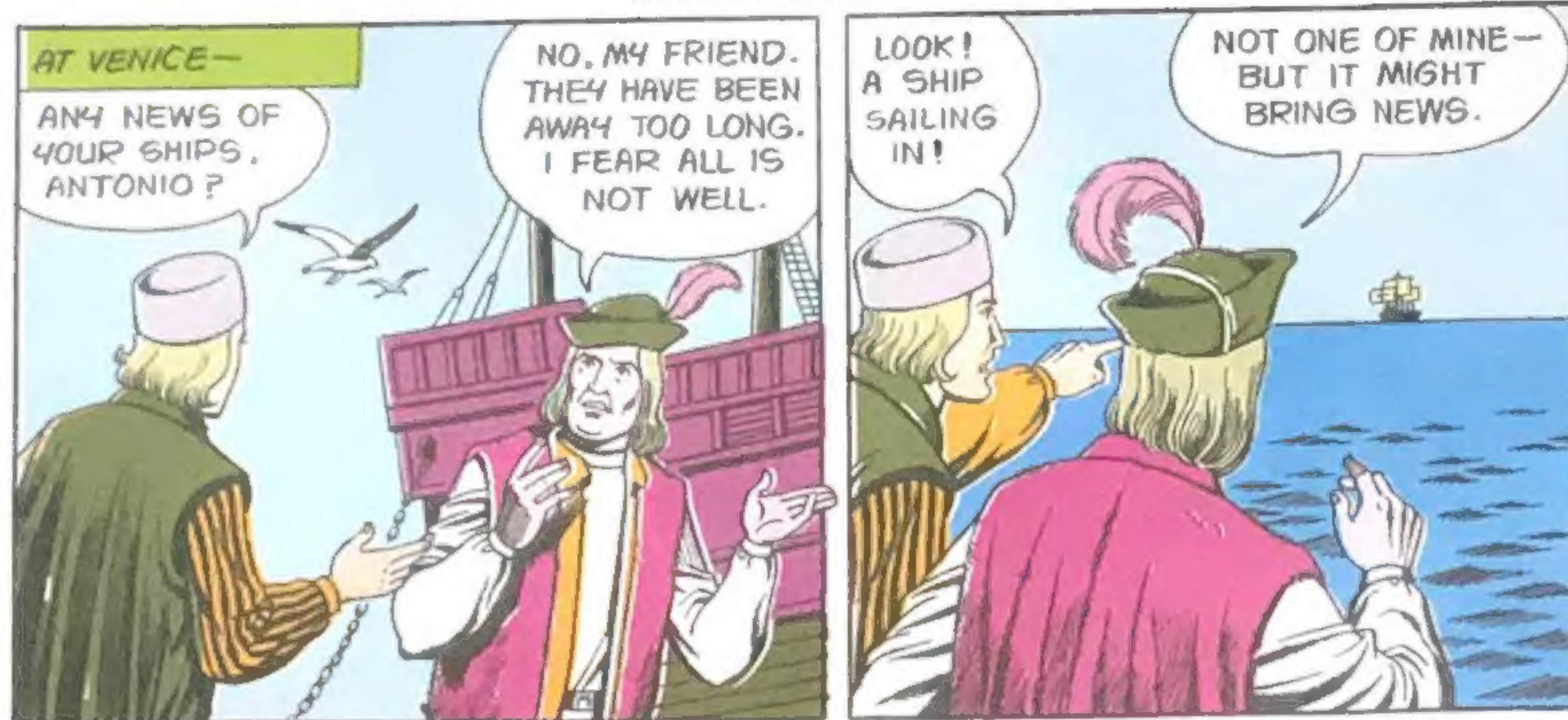


\* NOW ISTANBUL

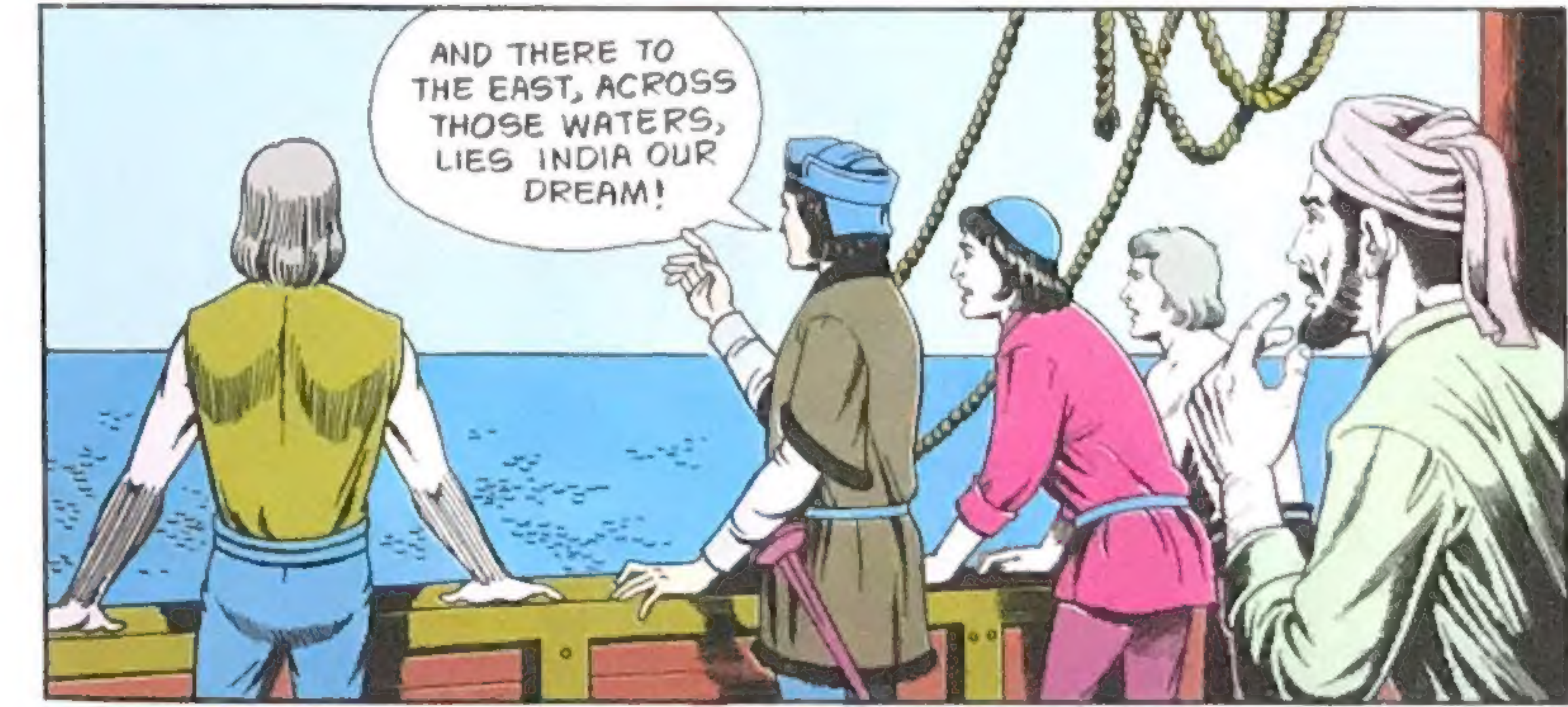
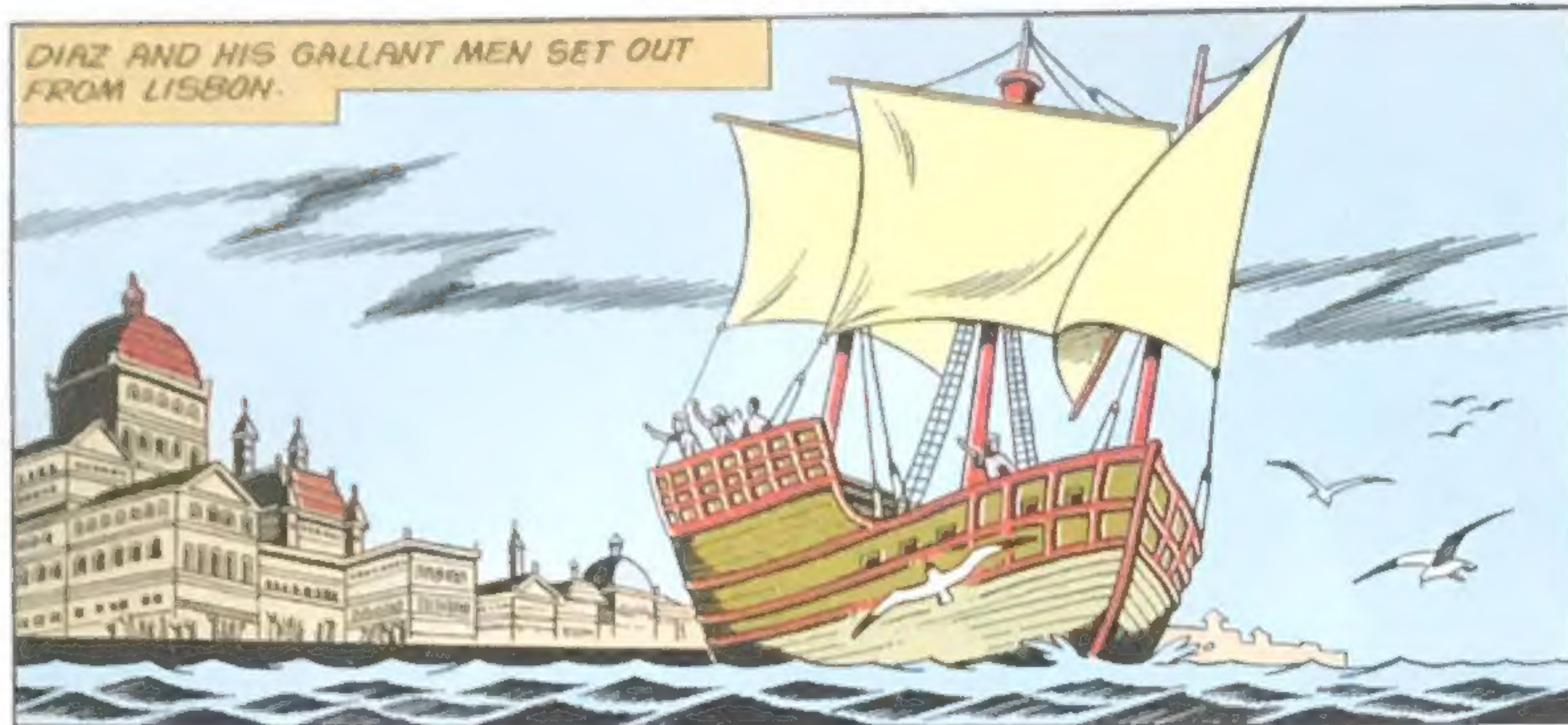
AND EVEN IF WE PAY, MARAUDERS ATTACK US ON LAND, AND PIRATES ON THE SEA!



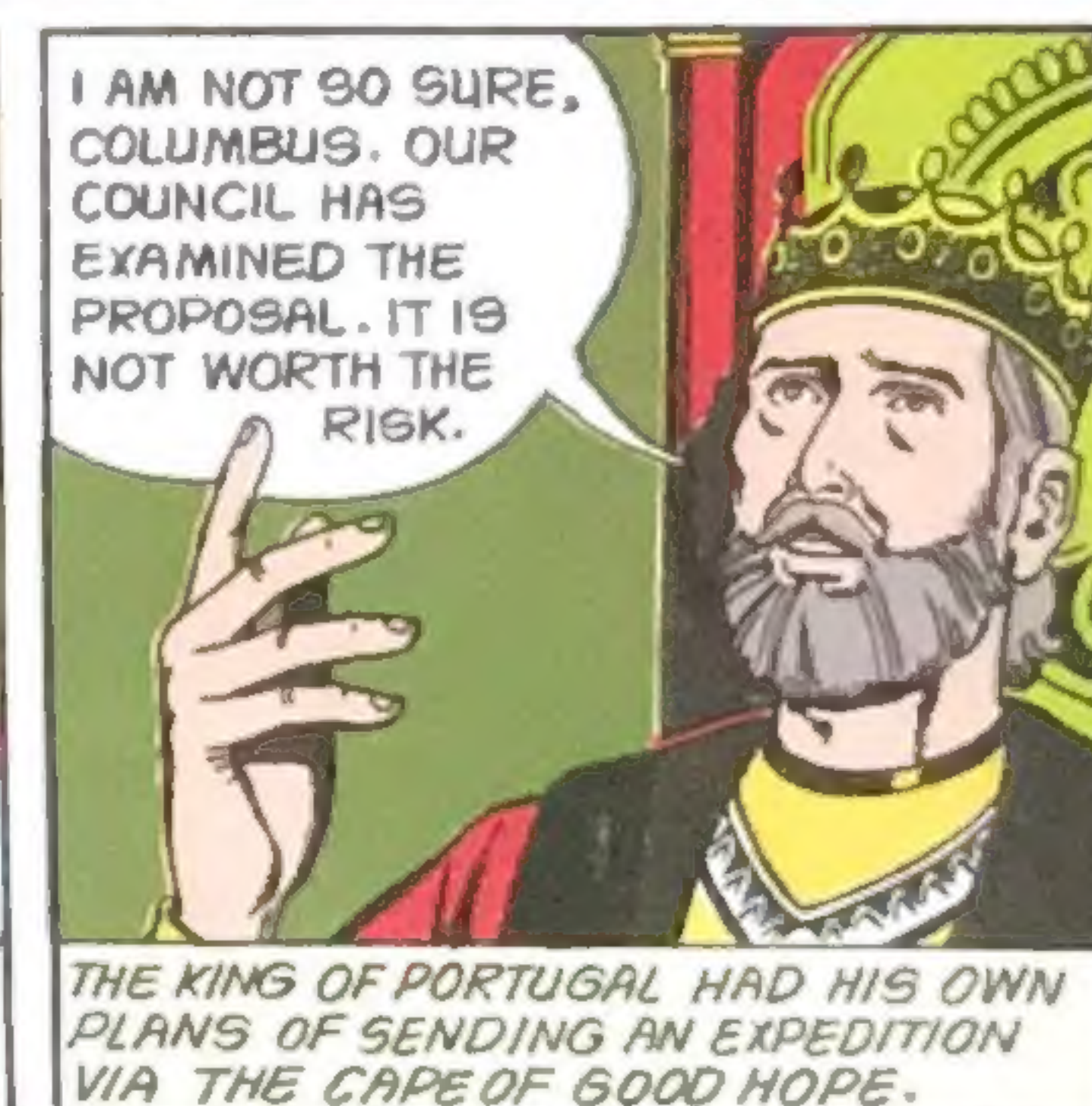
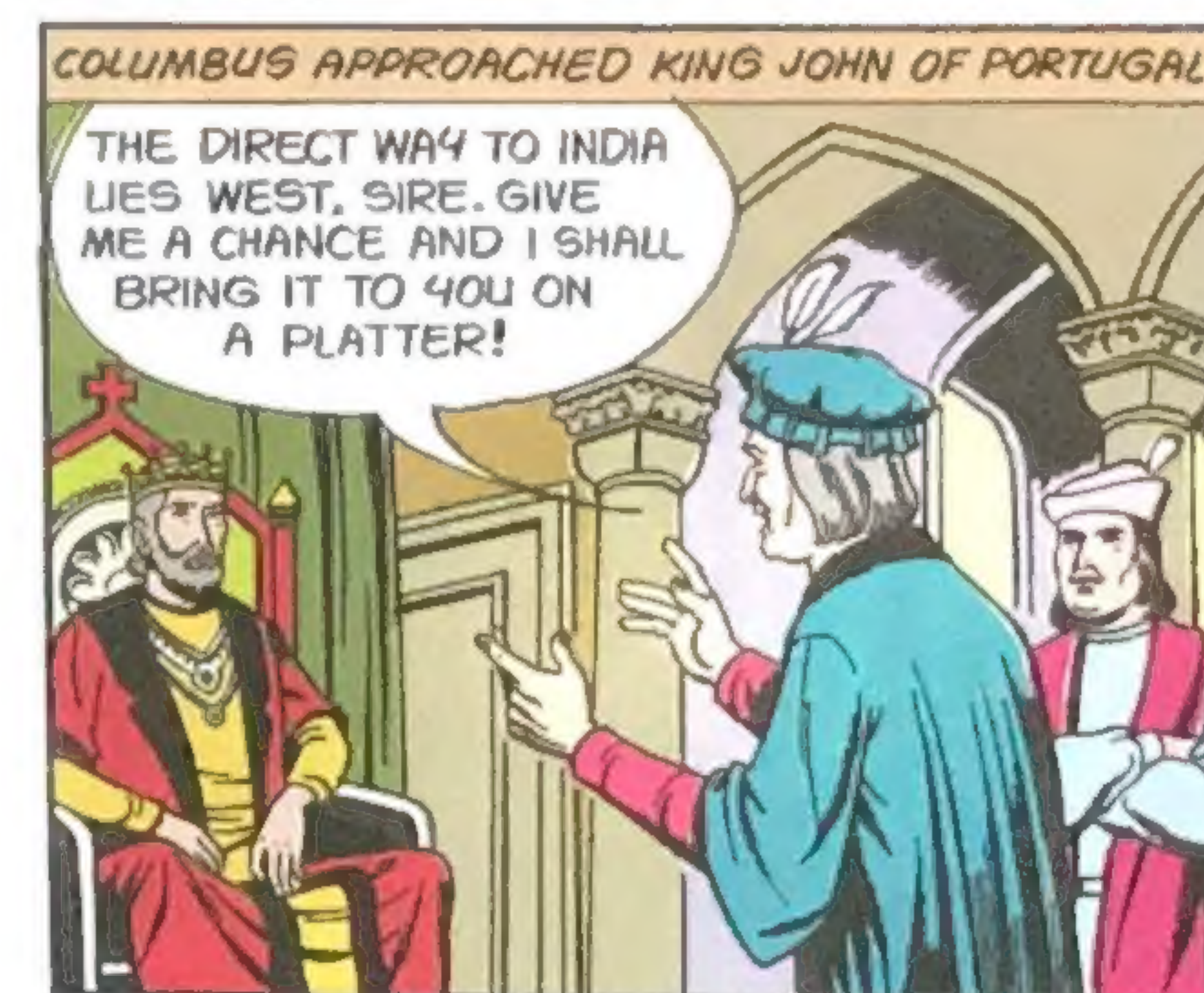
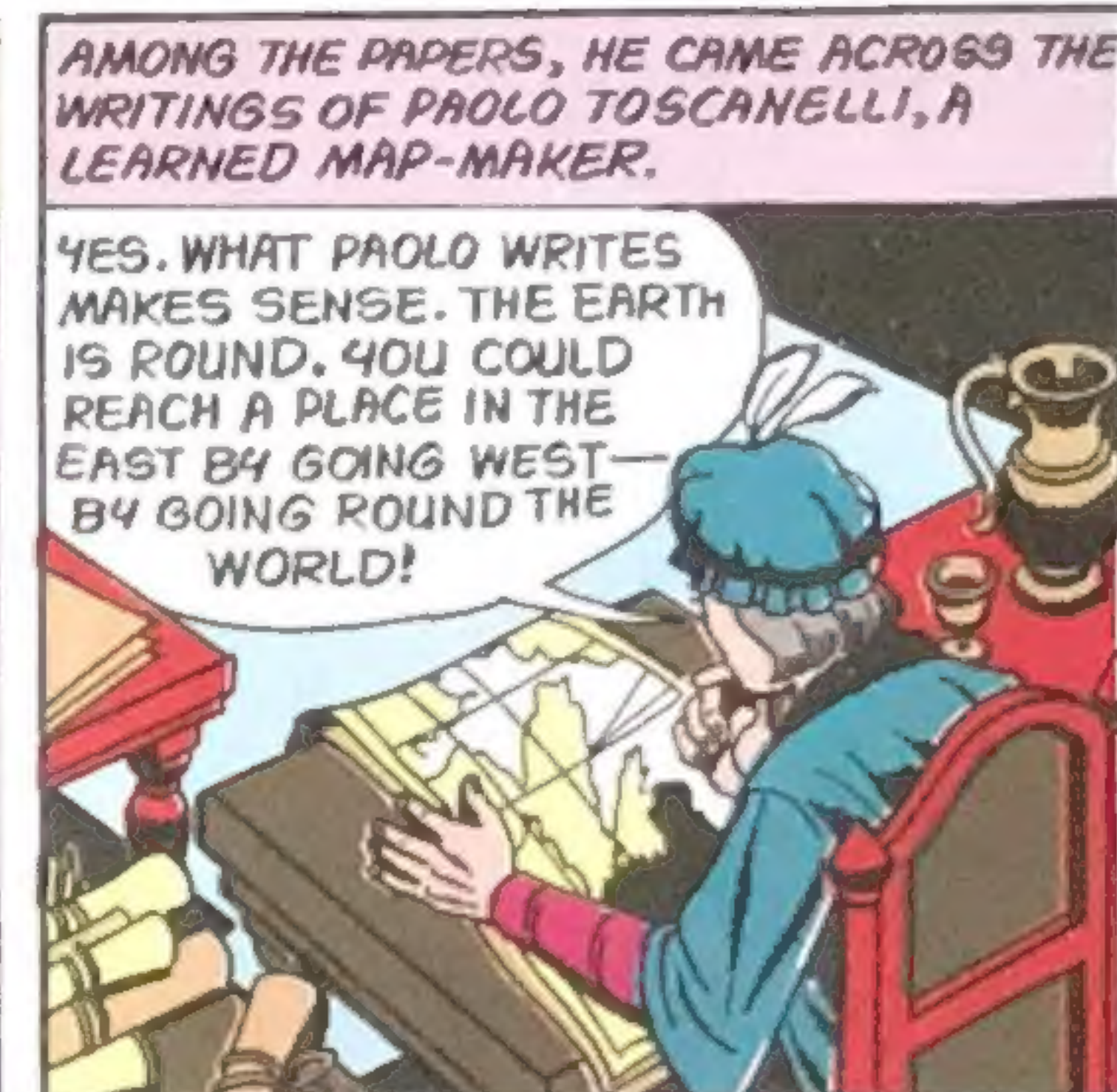
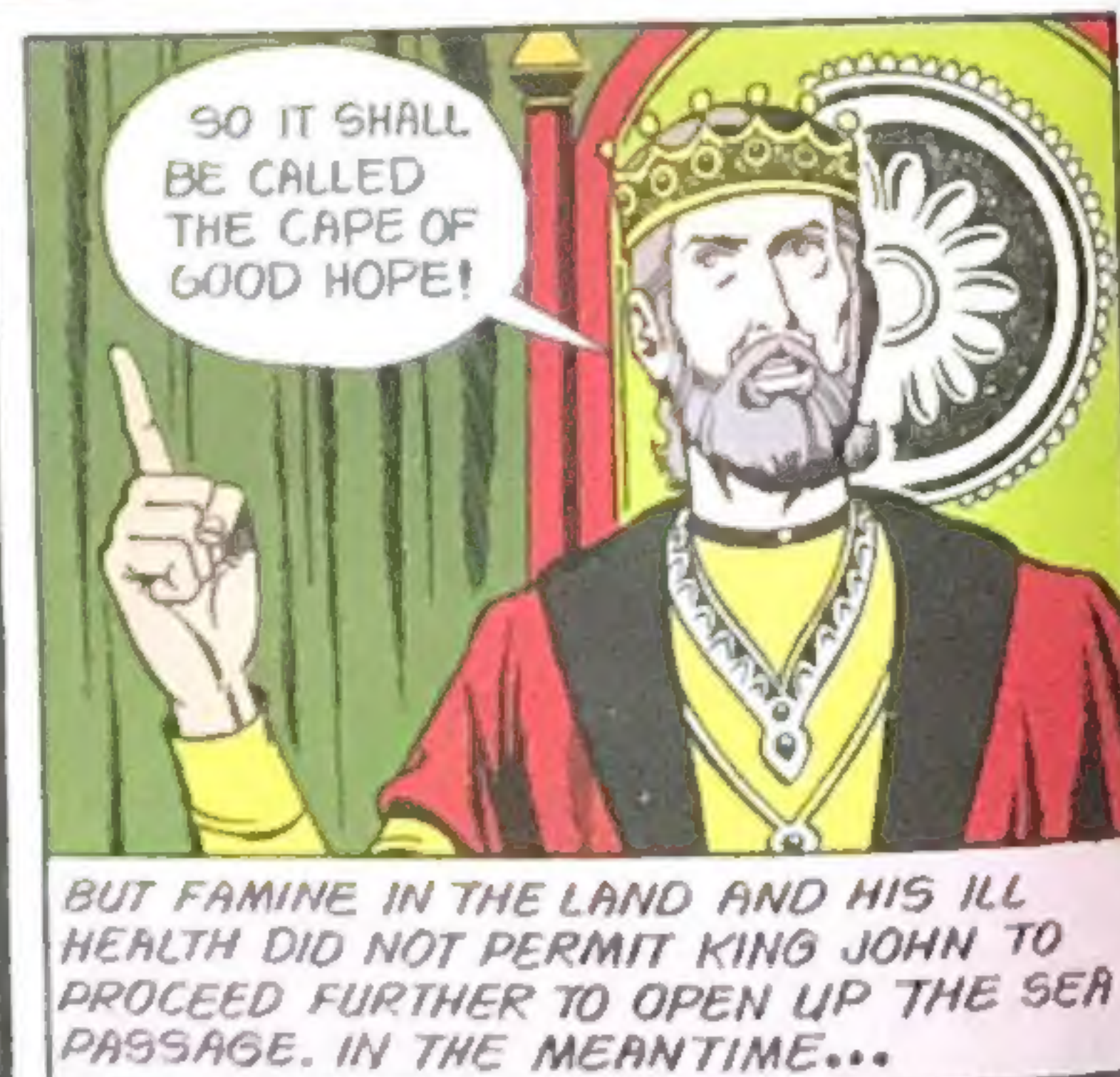
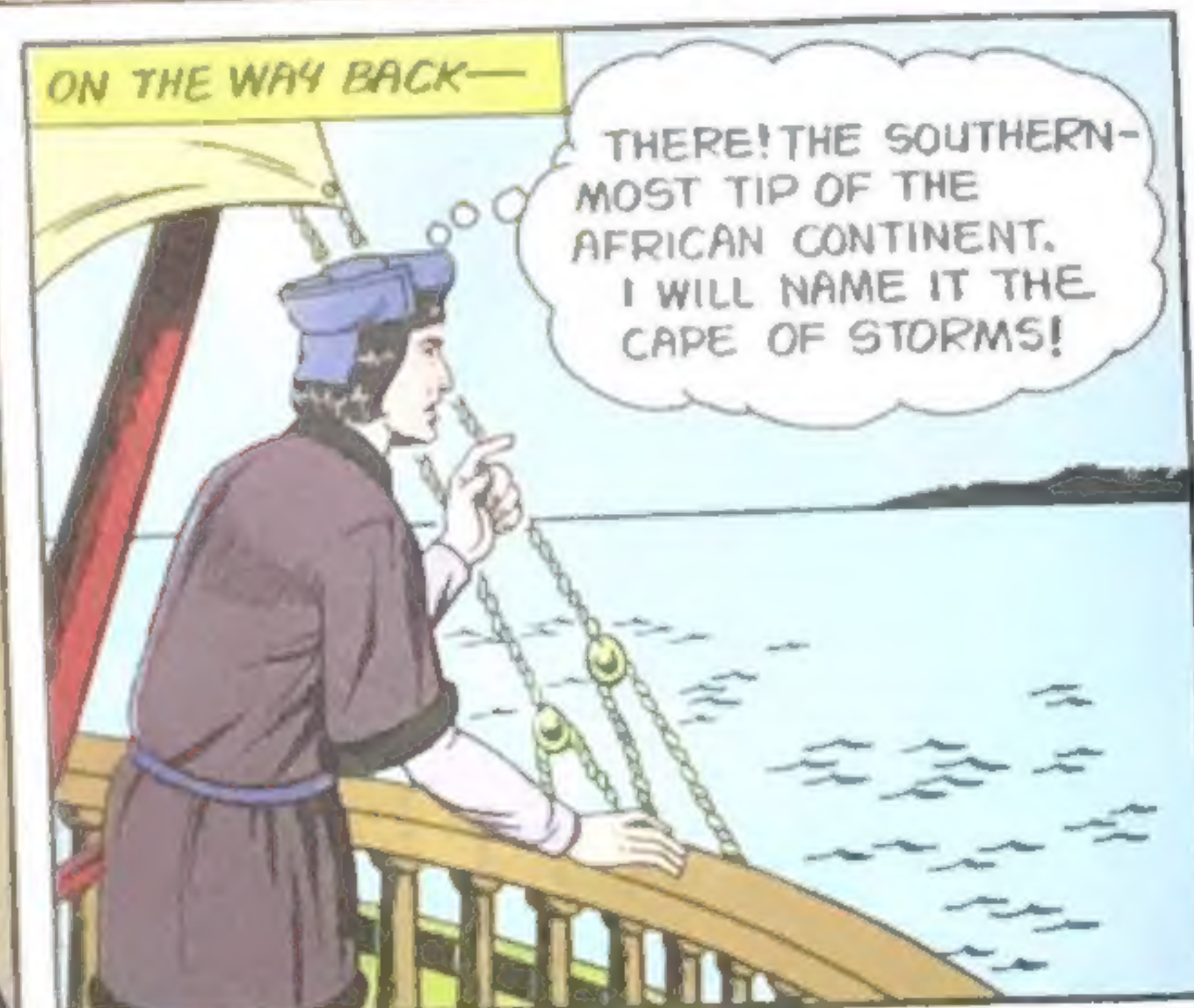






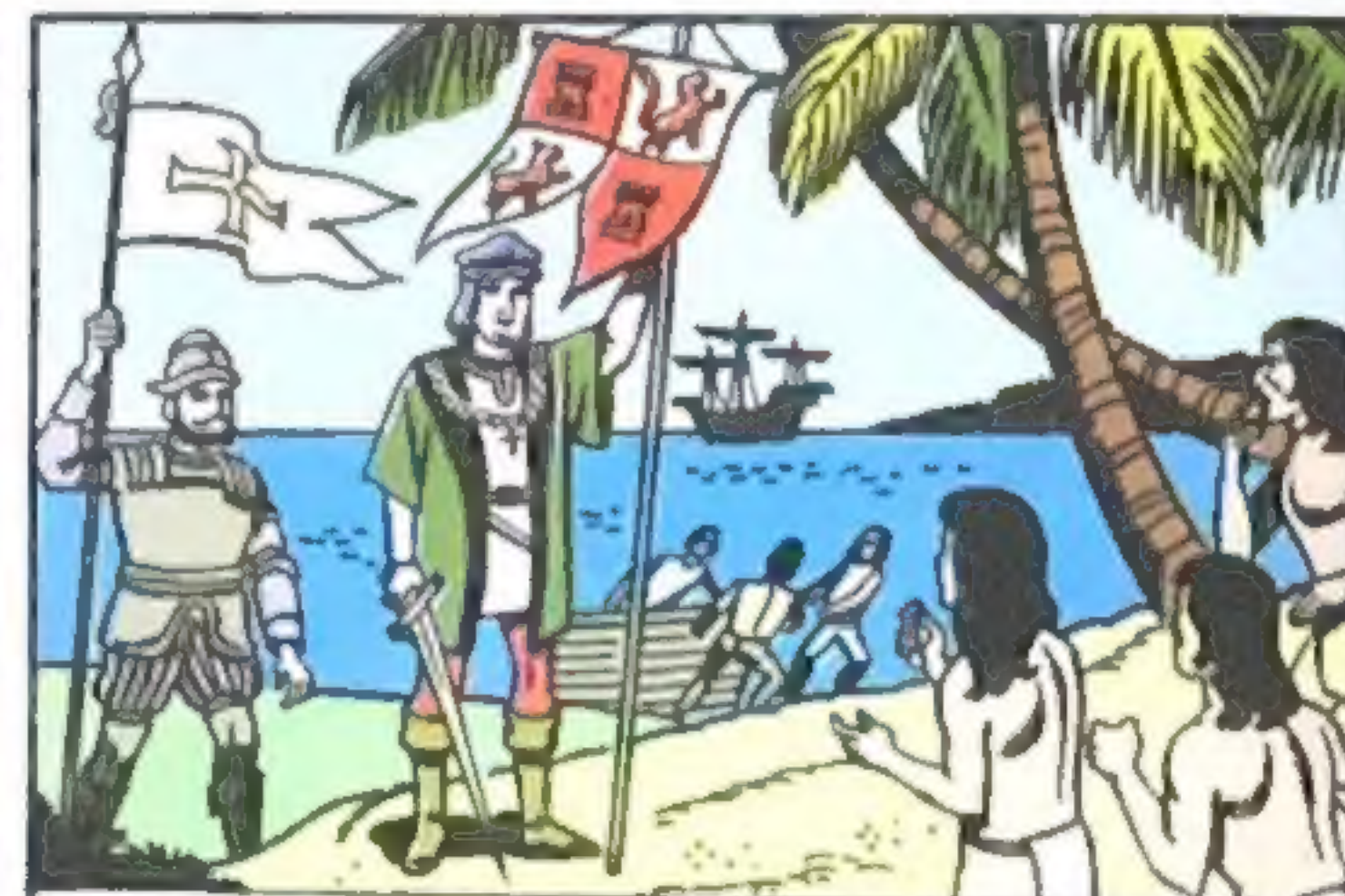






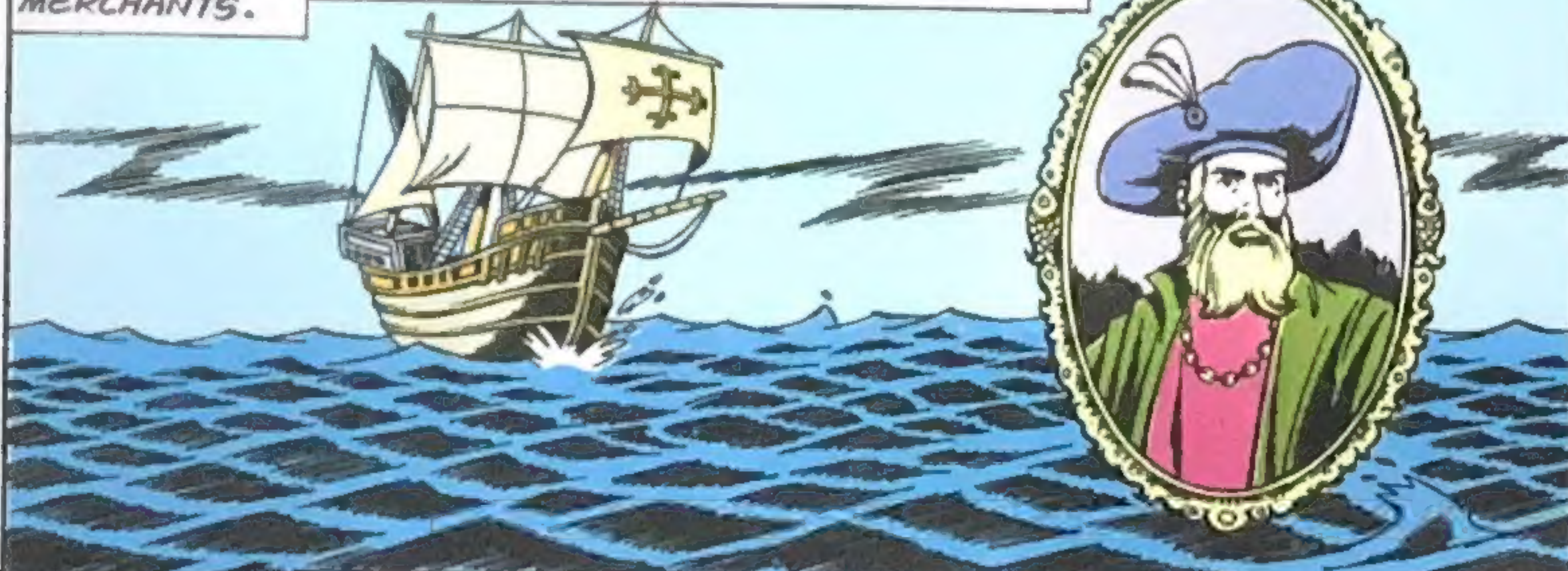


AFTER MANY WEEKS AT SEA —



COLUMBUS BELIEVED HE HAD LANDED IN THE INDIES (AND HELD TO THIS VIEW TILL HIS DEATH). BUT THE TERRITORY HE HAD DISCOVERED WAS ACTUALLY WHAT WE KNOW TODAY AS THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS.

ANOTHER SAILOR WHO TRIED TO FIND A SEA ROUTE TO ASIA WAS JOHN CABBOT. HE WAS AIDED BY THE BRITISH MERCHANTS.

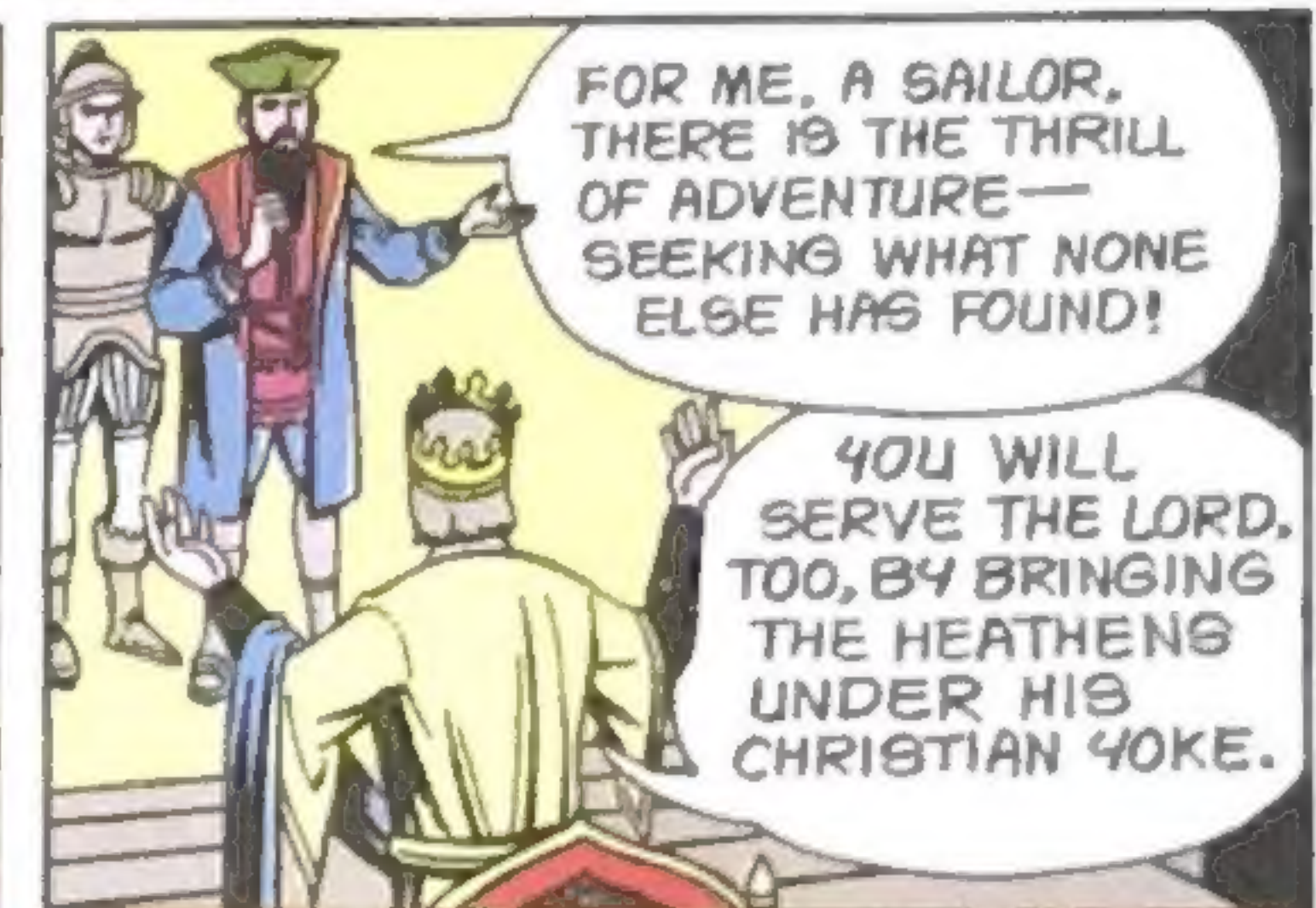


THE LAND HE DISCOVERED IN 1497 TURNED OUT TO BE NORTH AMERICA.

EMMANUEL, WHO SUCCEEDED KING JOHN TO THE THRONE OF PORTUGAL IN 1485, IMMEDIATELY TOOK UP THE SEARCH FOR THE SEA ROUTE AROUND THE CAPE. HE GAVE THE TASK TO VASCO DA GAMA.



BARTOLOMEU DIAZ HAS FOUND THE WAY, VASCO. FOLLOW IN HIS WAKE AND BRING BACK THE PRIZE FOR PORTUGAL. SPICES FROM THE INDIES WILL MAKE US THE RICHEST IN ALL EUROPE.

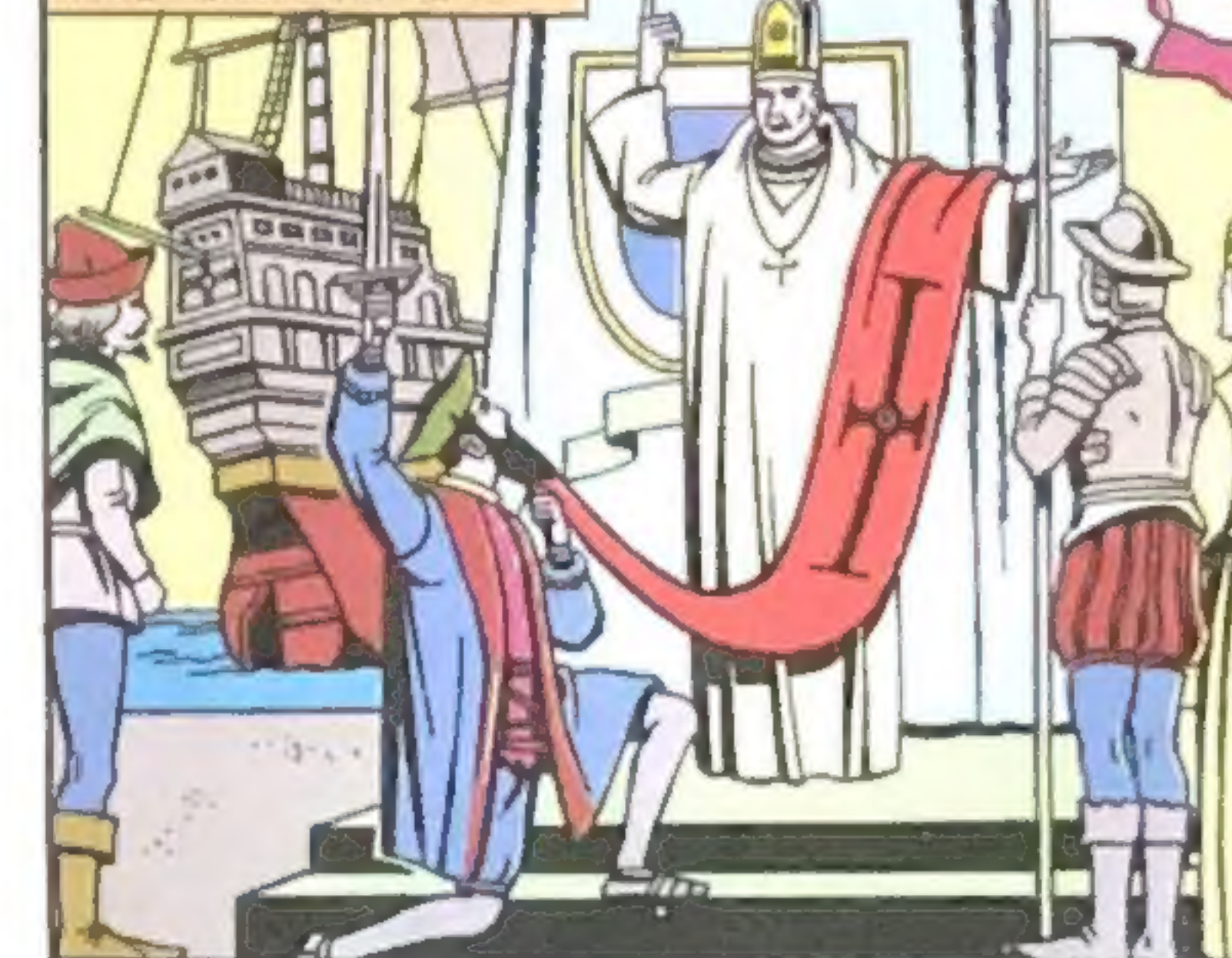


FOR ME, A SAILOR, THERE IS THE THRILL OF ADVENTURE — SEEKING WHAT NONE ELSE HAS FOUND!

YOU WILL SERVE THE LORD, TOO, BY BRINGING THE HEATHENS UNDER HIS CHRISTIAN YOKE.

THE CATHOLIC NATIONS WERE EAGER TO CONVERT OTHERS TO THEIR RELIGION, EVEN BY FORCE. VASCO WAS AN ADVENTURER, BUT THE MISSIONARY ZEAL ALSO BURNED BRIGHT IN HIS BOSOM.

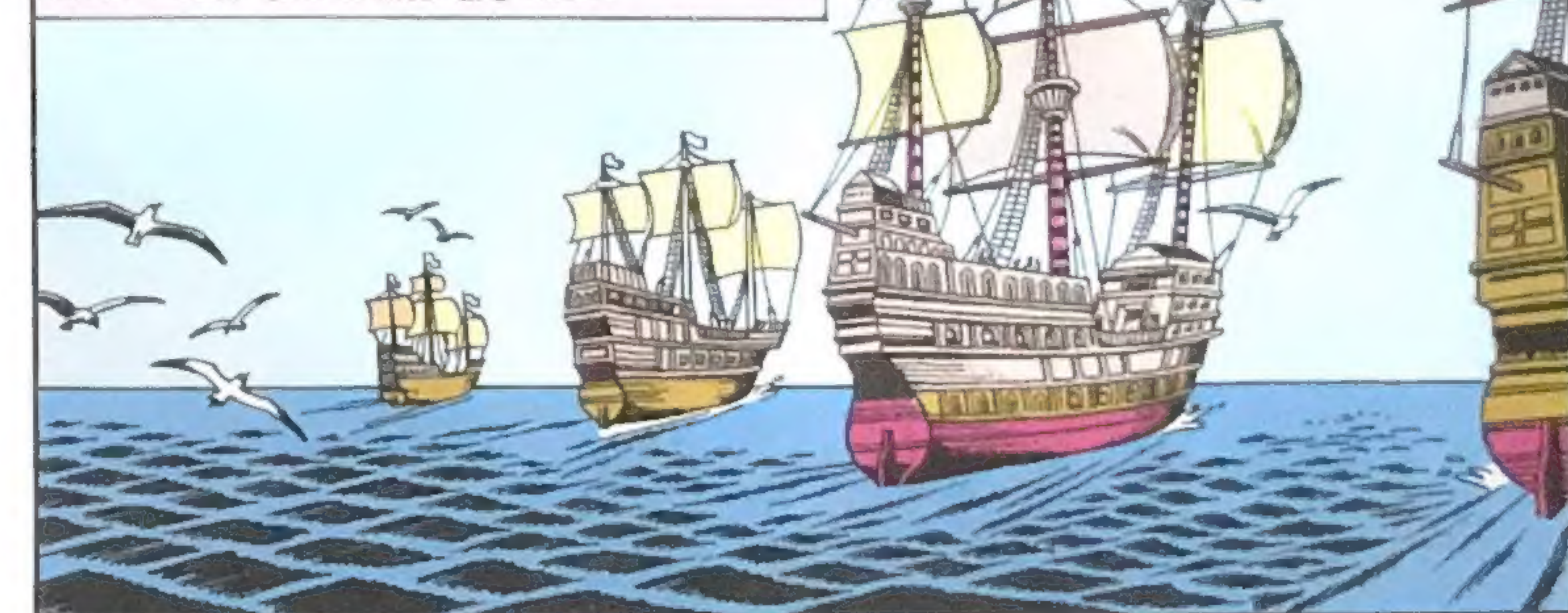
THE CREW RECEIVED BLESSINGS FROM THE CARDINAL...



... AND ENTERED THE SHIP IN PROCESSION.



VASCO DA GAMA SET SAIL IN JULY 1497 WITH FOUR SHIPS AND 170 MEN.





WHEN THEY WERE A FEW WEEKS OUT AT SEA, ILLNESS STRUCK.

WATER! MY BODY IS ON FIRE!

SPOTS ALL OVER HIS BODY. IT IS THE DREADED SCOURGE, SCURVY! GOD SAVE US.

MANY LIVES WERE LOST.

AS THEY ROUNDED THE CAPE THEY WERE BUFFETED BY A STORM. THE SAILORS WERE DISHEARTENED.

WE WILL TURN BACK!

TURN BACK? THAT IS MUTINY! ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT AGAIN WILL BE THROWN OVERBOARD!

VASCO DA GAMA WAS ABLE TO CONTROL HIS MEN.

AT MELINDE, OFF THE EAST COAST OF AFRICA, VASCO DA GAMA SOUGHT THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE RULING CHIEF.

WE WISH TO SAIL EAST, TO INDIA.

I KNOW A SAILOR FROM THAT LAND WHO WILL GUIDE YOU TO INDIA.

THUS VASCO DA GAMA WAS ABLE TO SECURE THE SERVICE OF A PILOT.

HAVE YOU SAILED OFTEN IN THESE WATERS? DO KNOW THEM WELL?

CERTAINLY, LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND! HUNDREDS OF SHIPS SAIL FROM HERE TO INDIA, LANKA AND THE ISLANDS BEYOND.

WITH THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPERIENCED PILOT, DA GAMA'S FLEET SOON TOUCHED INDIAN SHORES.

THERE LIES INDIA! WE HAVE REACHED THE PORT OF KOZHIKODE\*

KOZHIKODE? IS THAT A BIG CITY? LIKE USBON?

IT WAS THE YEAR 1498.

\* CALICUT

IT IS SAID IN FUN THAT WHEN THE KOZHI\* CROWS AT ONE END OF KOZHIKODE, IT CAN BE HEARD AT THE OTHER!

WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THE NATIVE RULER?

THE ZAMORIN? HE IS FAIR AND TREATS EVERYONE EQUALLY. FOR TRADE, THERE IS NO PLACE MORE FAVOURABLE THAN KOZHIKODE.

SHIPS FROM ALL OVER COME TO KOZHIKODE AND THE TRADE IS ALWAYS BRISK.

THIS VOYAGE PROMISES TO BE A GRAND SUCCESS! I WILL SEND MY MEN TO THE ZAMORIN AND SEEK AN AUDIENCE WITH HIM.

VASCO DA GAMA SENT TWO OF HIS MEN TO THE ZAMORIN. THEY CAME BACK WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE RULER.

THE ZAMORIN WILL RECEIVE YOU AT HIS PALACE IN KOZHIKODE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HIM.



ON THE SUGGESTION OF THE ZAMORIN, VASCO DA GAMA SAILED FOR PANTALAYINI WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY THE KOTWAL.



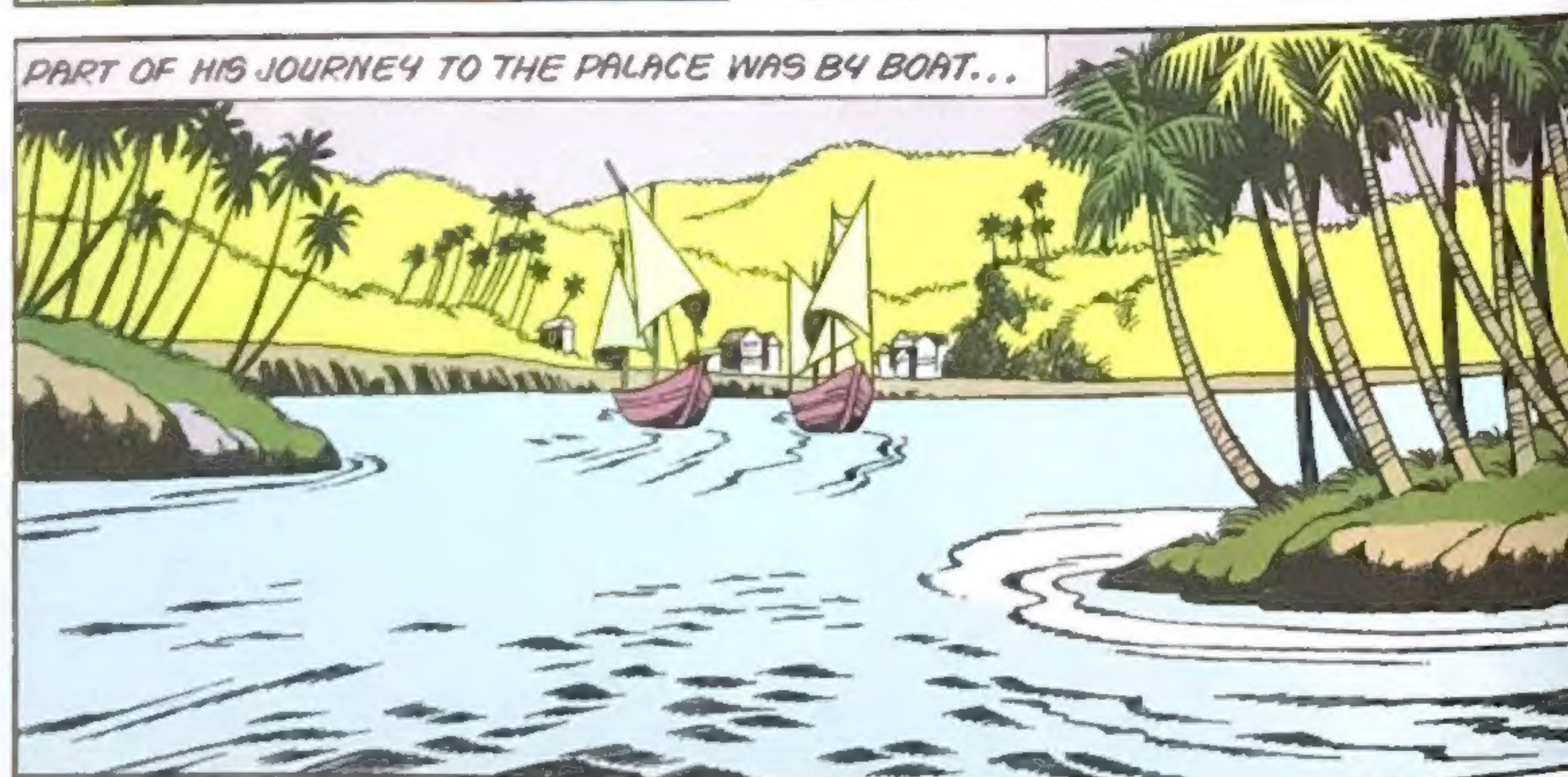
THE ZAMORIN SENDS HIS COMPLIMENTS. WORTHY SIR, AND BIDS YOU ACCEPT HIS GIFTS!

VASCO DA GAMA AND HIS PARTY LEFT FOR THE ZAMORIN'S PALACE.



THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE US IF WE TELL THEM AT HOME ABOUT THE GRAND WELCOME WE HAVE RECEIVED!

THE PROCESSION APPROACHED A RIVER. VASCO DA GAMA WAS CARRIED TO A WAITING BOAT.



PART OF HIS JOURNEY TO THE PALACE WAS BY BOAT...

... AND THE REST BY LAND. ON THE WAY—



WHAT COULD THAT BE— A NATIVE CHAPEL?

DA GAMA HALTED THE PROCESSION AND ENTERED THE 'CHAPEL' TO PRAY.

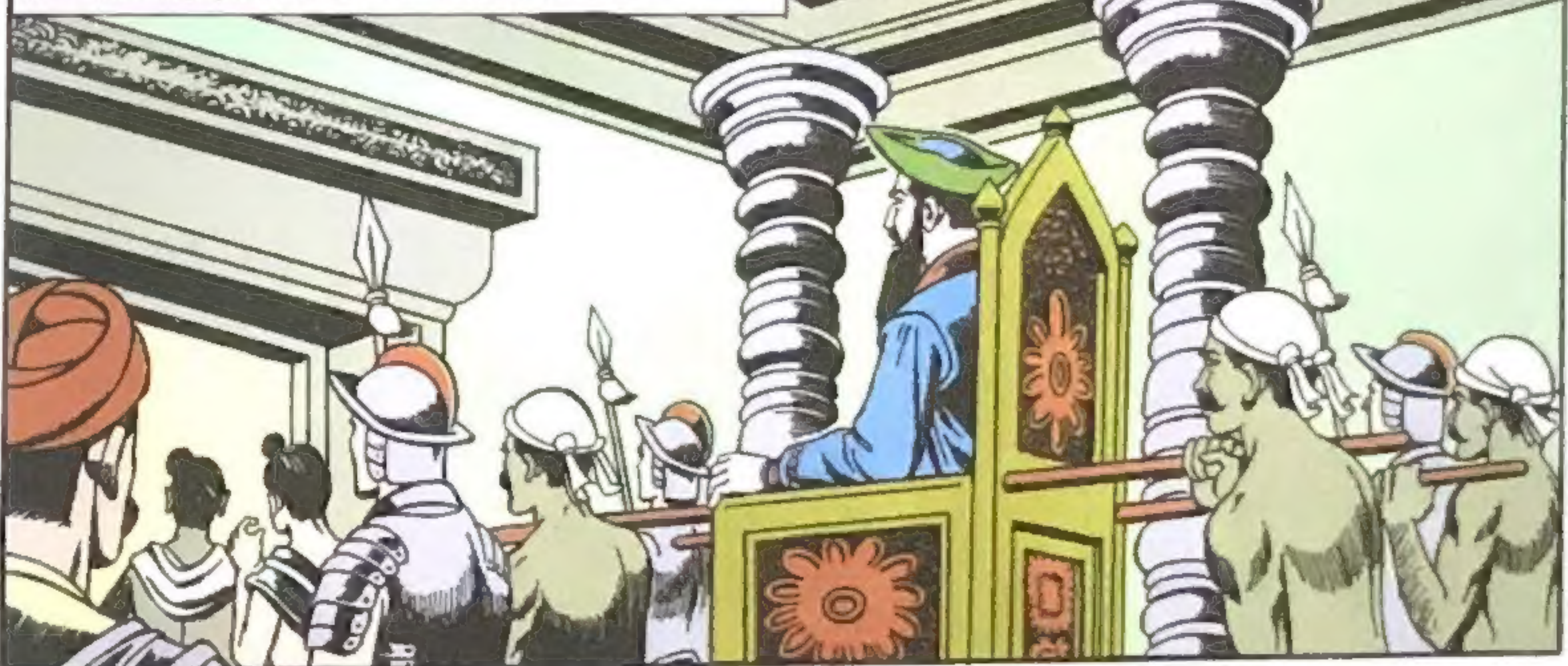
HE CAME OUT SHOCKED BY WHAT HE SAW IN THERE.



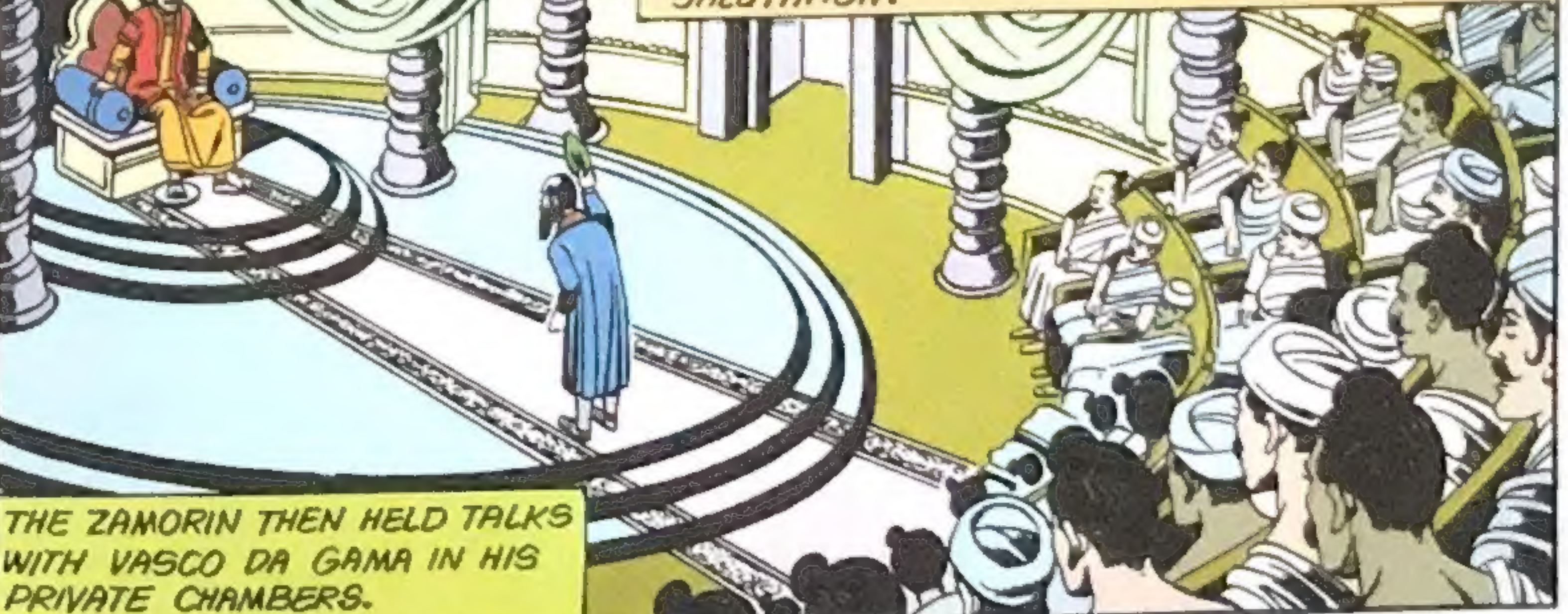
IF THOSE ARE CHRISTIAN PRACTICES, THEY HAVE DEGENERATED A GREAT DEAL!

WHAT HE HAD ENTERED WAS A TEMPLE!

AT LAST HE ARRIVED AT THE PALACE.



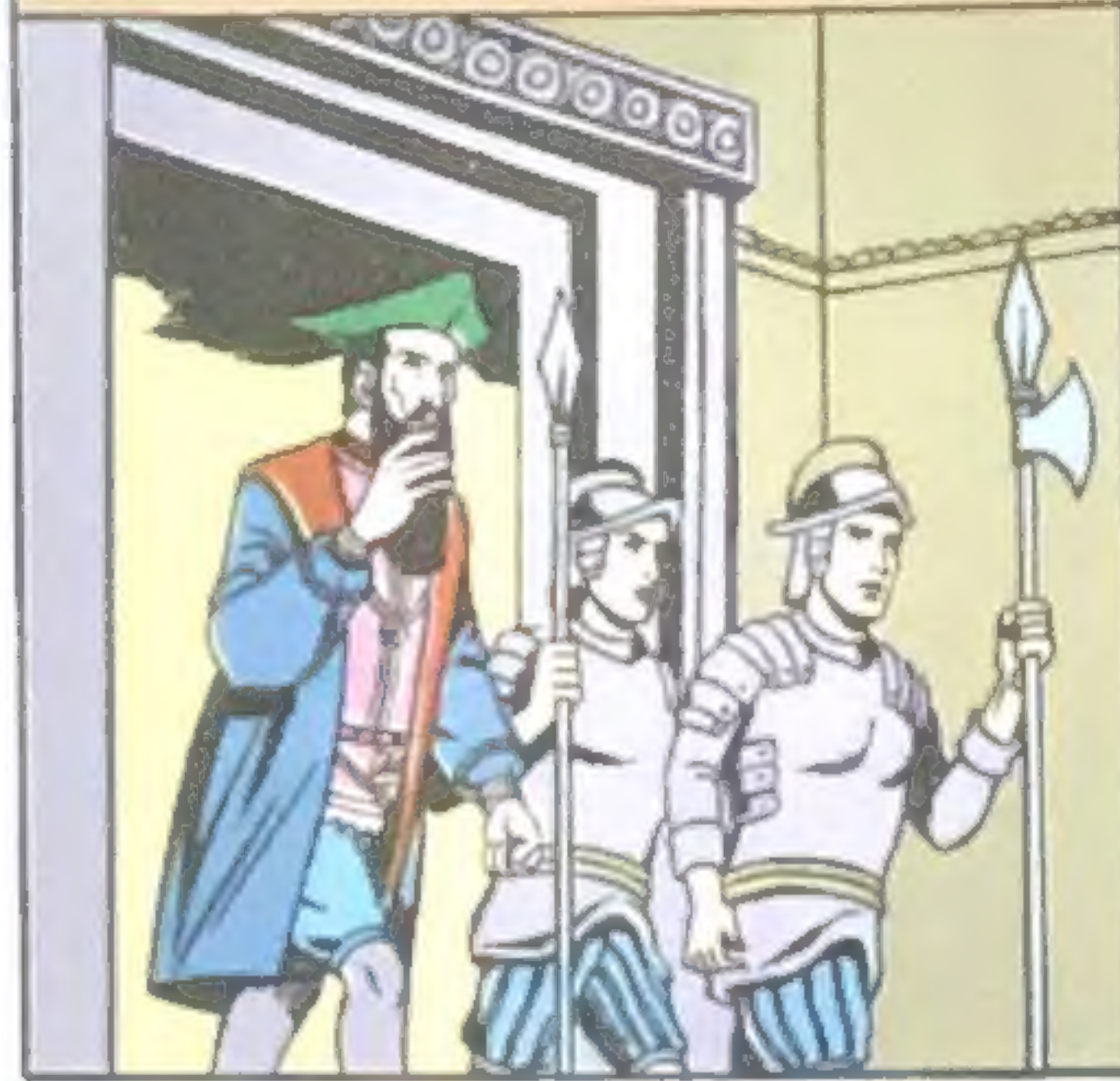
THE ZAMORIN RECEIVED HIM IN HIS ASSEMBLY HALL. THE PORTUGUESE VISITOR STOOPED AND BOWED THREE TIMES, LIFTING HIS HANDS IN SALUTATION.



THE ZAMORIN THEN HELD TALKS WITH VASCO DA GAMA IN HIS PRIVATE CHAMBERS.



LATER DA GAMA LEFT FOR HIS LODGINGS.



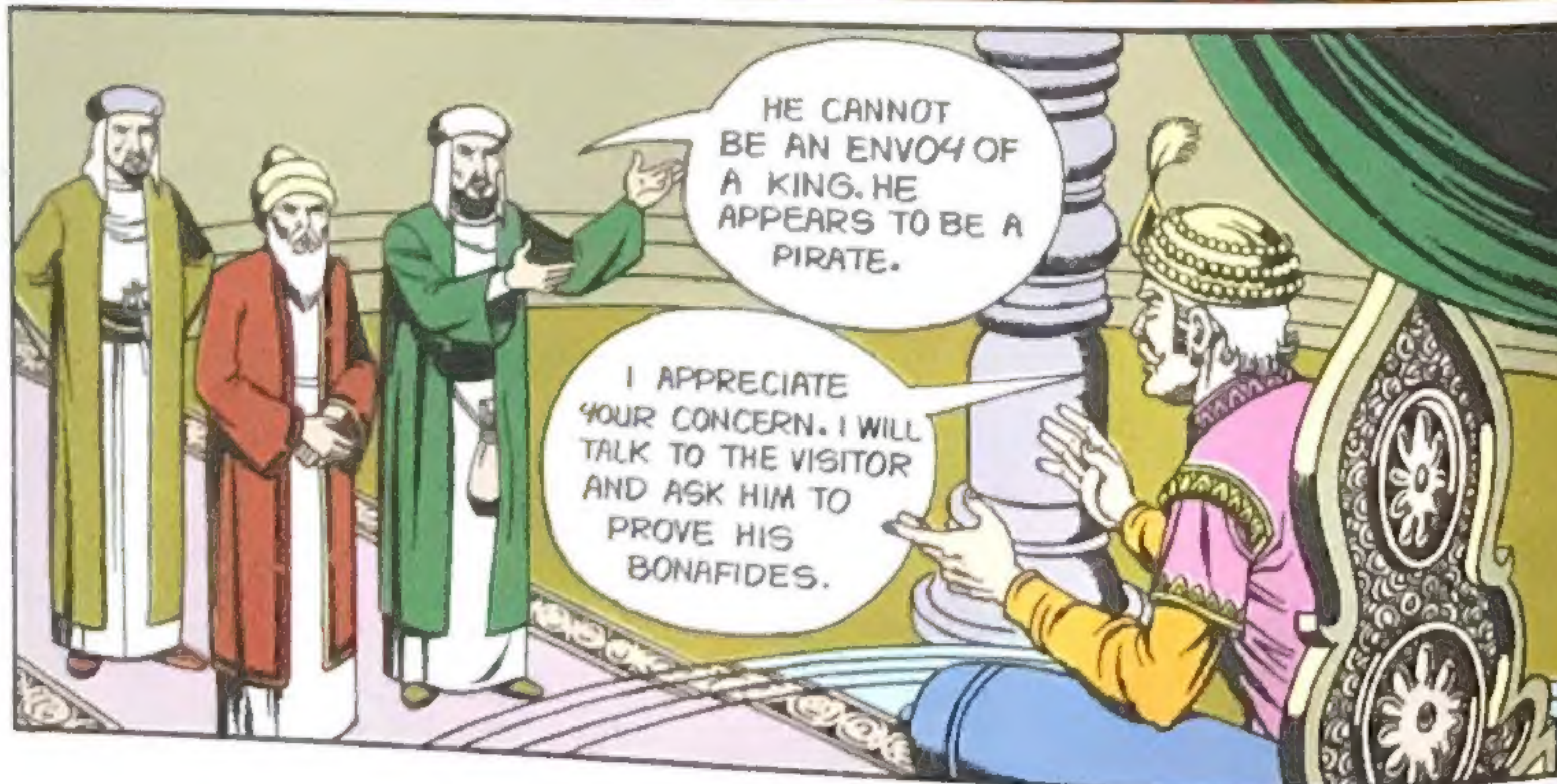
THE ARABS IN KOZHIKODE WHO CONTROLLED FOREIGN TRADE RESENTED THE COMING OF THE PORTUGUESE.



THE NEXT DAY VASCO DA GAMA SENT THE ZAMORIN SOME GIFTS.



THE ARABS CALLED ON THE ZAMORIN.



VASCO DA GAMA PRODUCED A LETTER FROM THE PORTUGUESE KING. THE ZAMORIN WAS SATISFIED AND HE PERMITTED DA GAMA TO TRADE.



CHILDREN CAME TO SEE THE SHIP AND THE STRANGE, WHITE-SKINNED FIRANGEES FROM CLOSE RANGE.





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SEA ROUTE TO INDIA

VASCO DA GAMA'S ENVOY MET THE ZAMORIN AFTER WAITING FOR FOUR DAYS FOR THE APPOINTMENT. AFTER PRESENTING HIM WITH THE GIFTS —

MY MASTER WOULD LIKE TO FILL UP HIS SHIPS WITH PEPPER AND GINGER, IN RETURN FOR THE GOODS THAT WERE BROUGHT BY US FOR BARTER.

THE ZAMORIN'S REPLY WAS CONVEYED THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.

THE ZAMORIN WILL ARRANGE FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE MERCHANDISE YOU WANT IN EXCHANGE FOR GOLD AND SILVER.

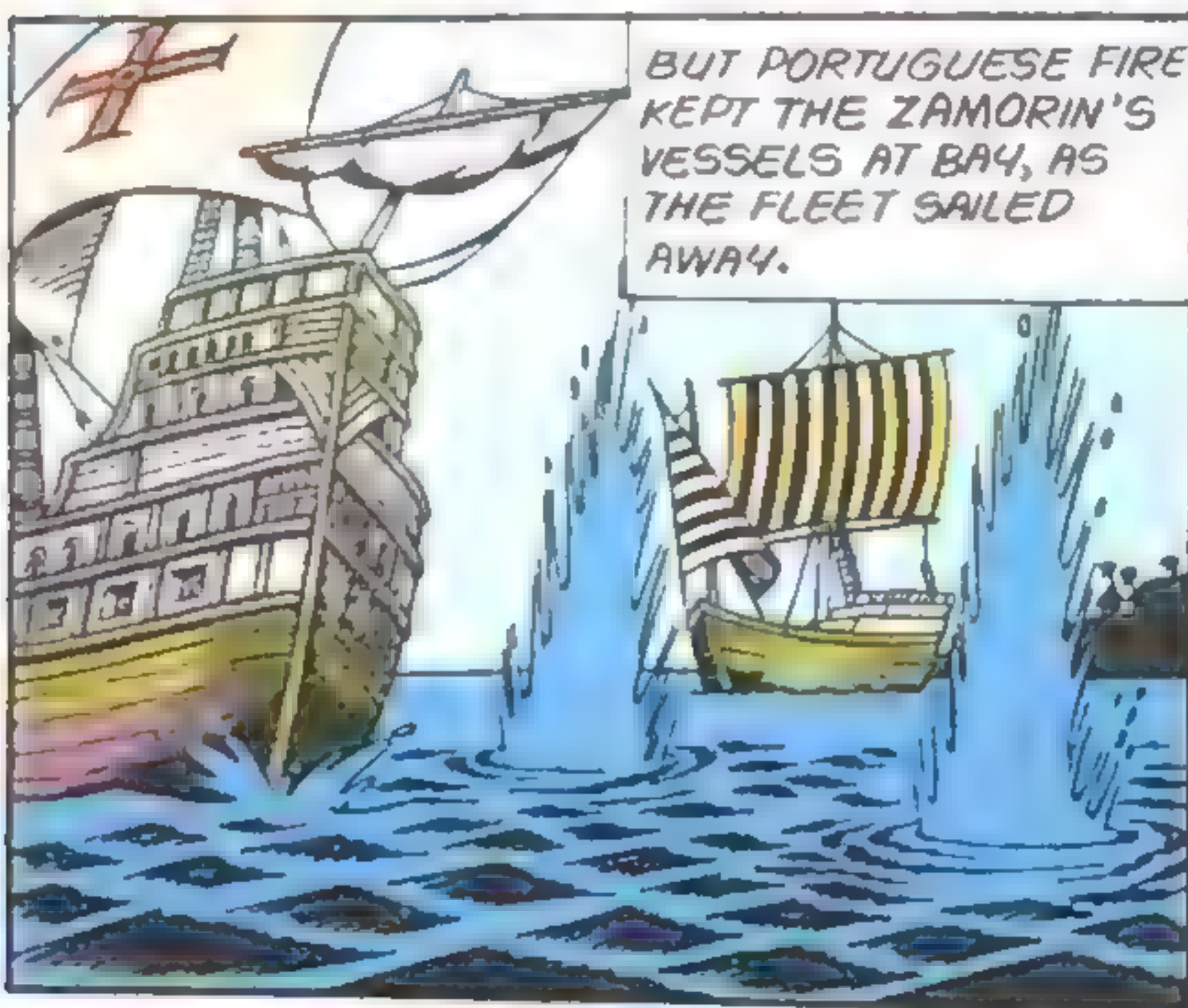
WHAT?

AND YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE USUAL CUSTOMS DUTY.

MY MASTER WILL NEVER AGREE.

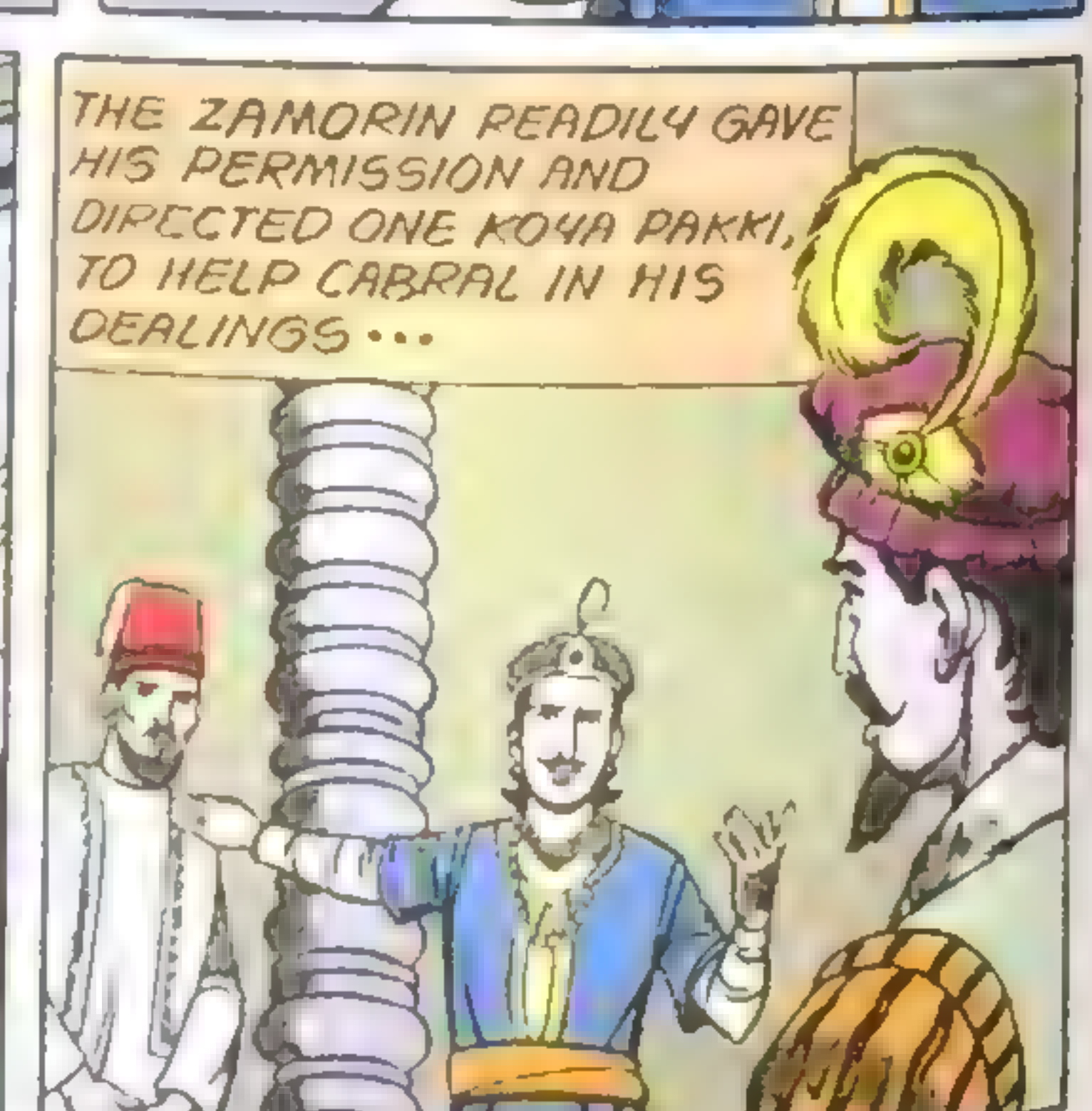
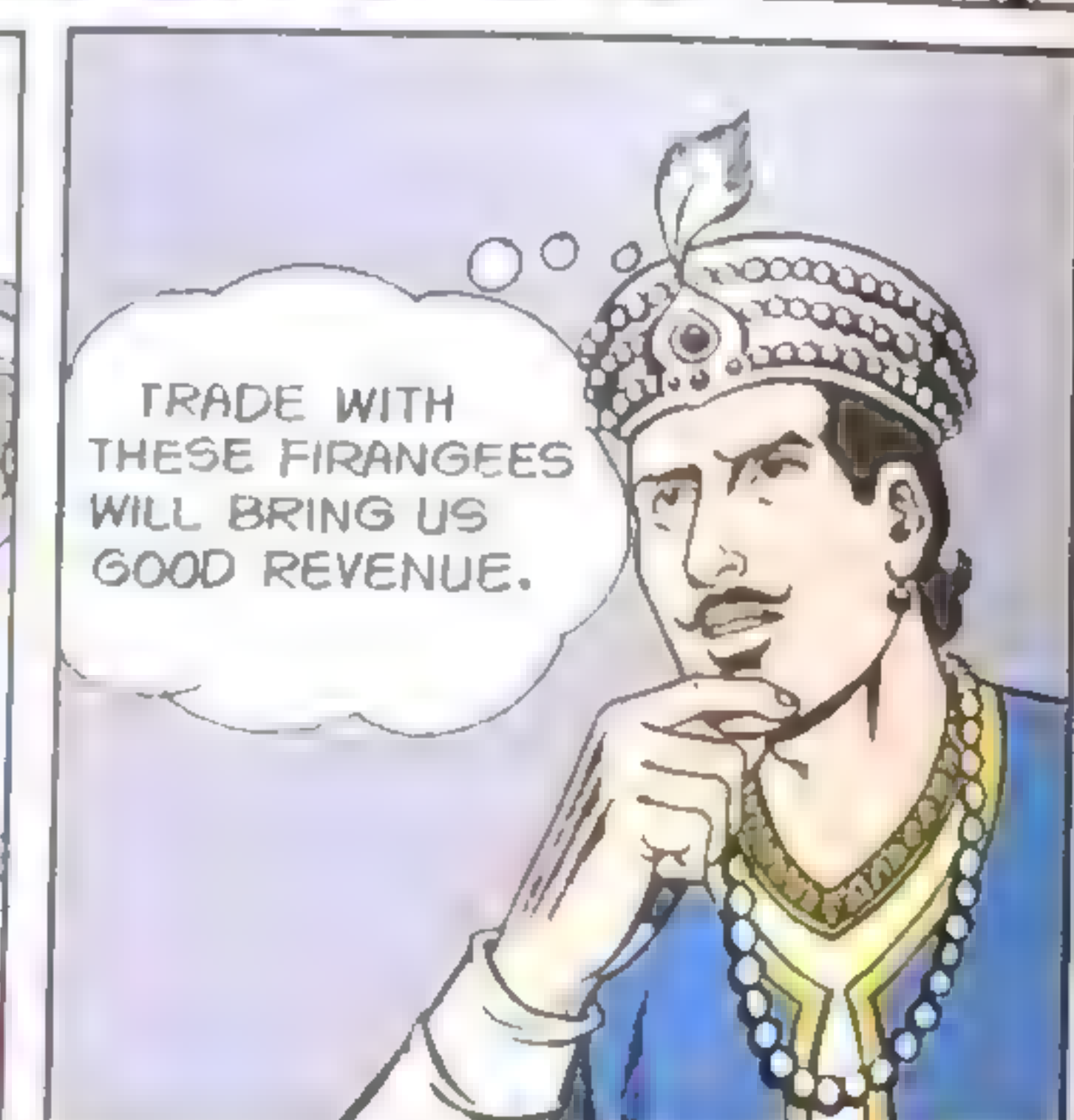
THEN WE WILL DETAIN TWO OF YOUR MEN HERE TILL THE DUTY IS PAID.



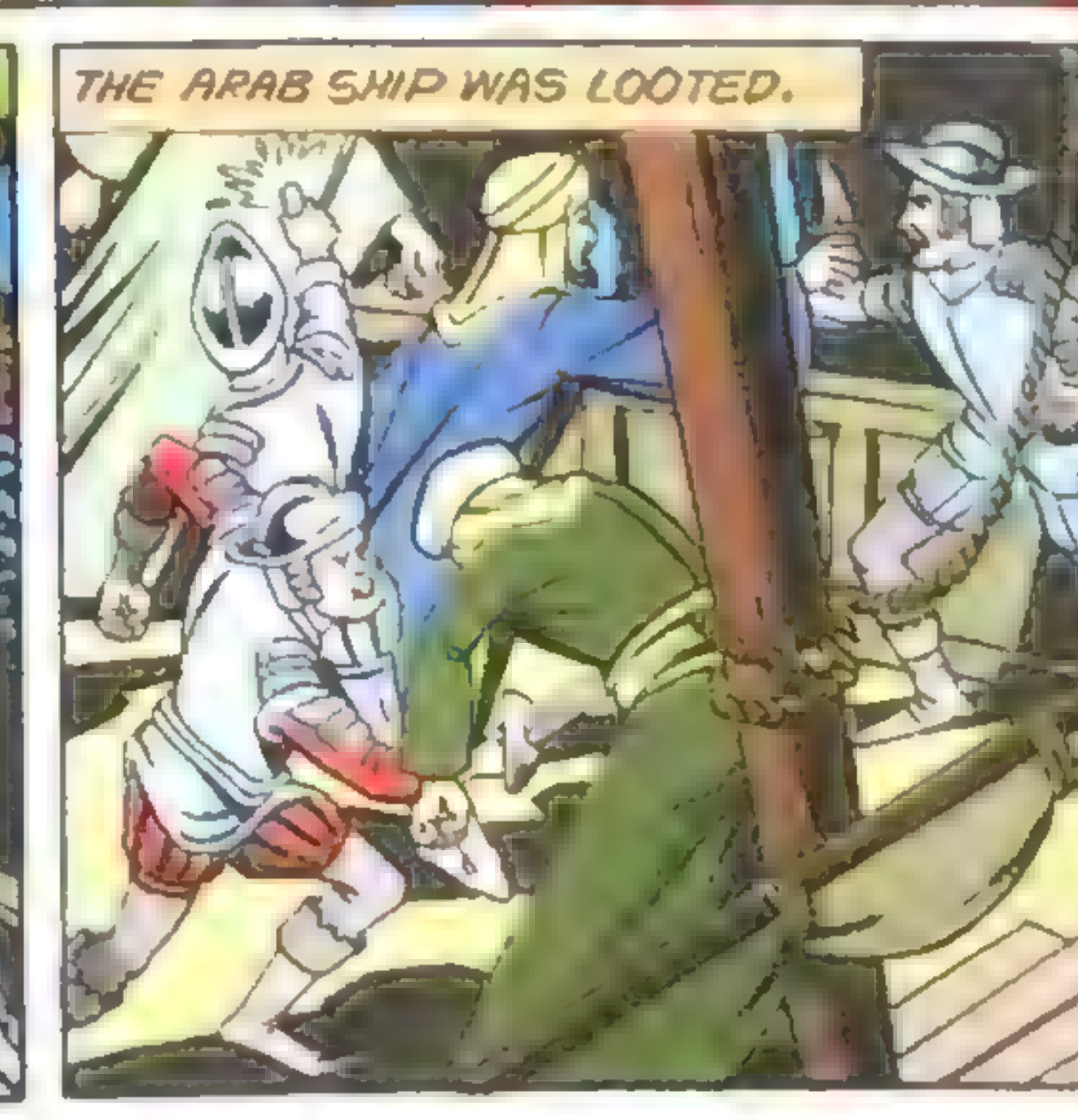
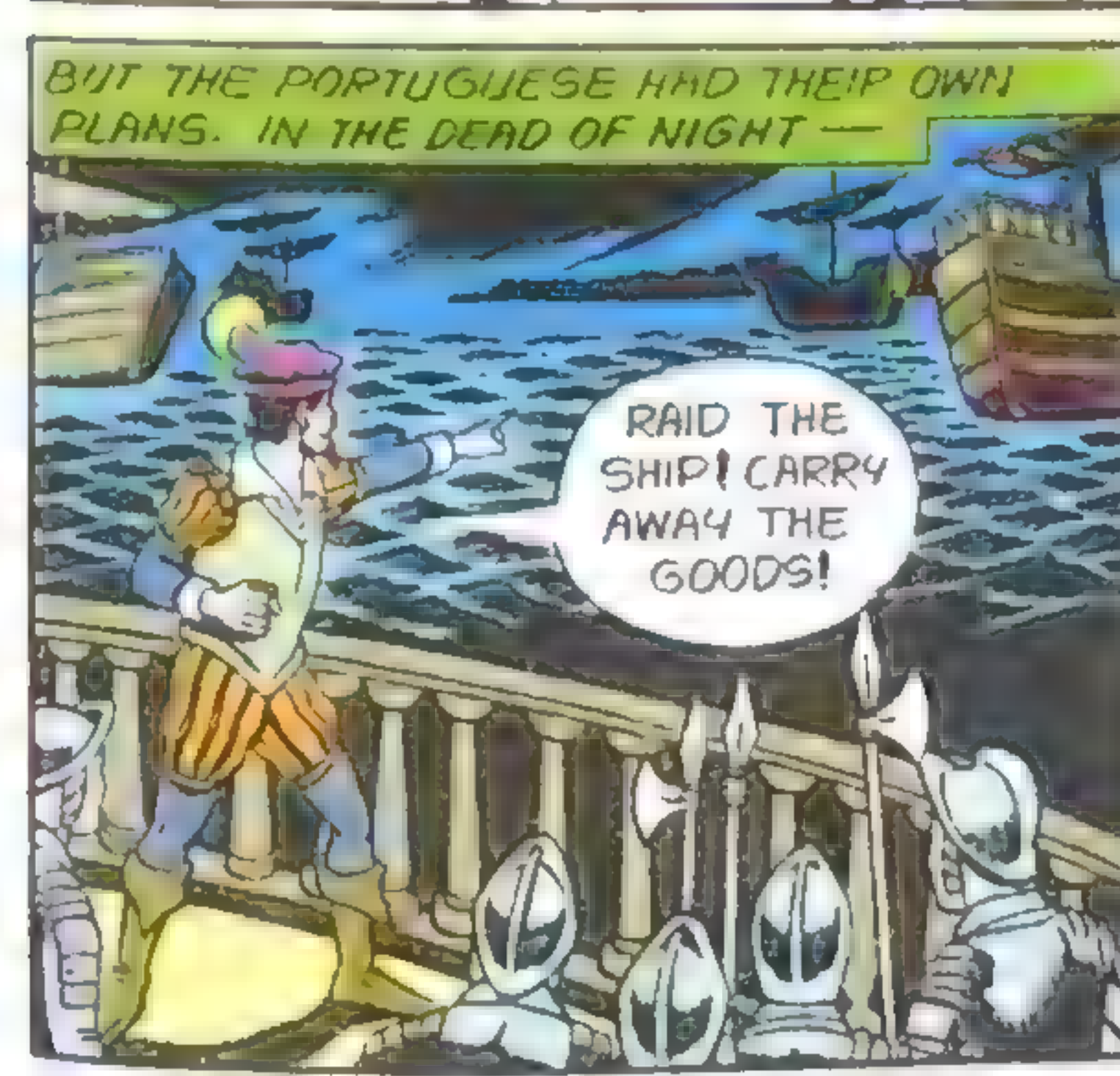
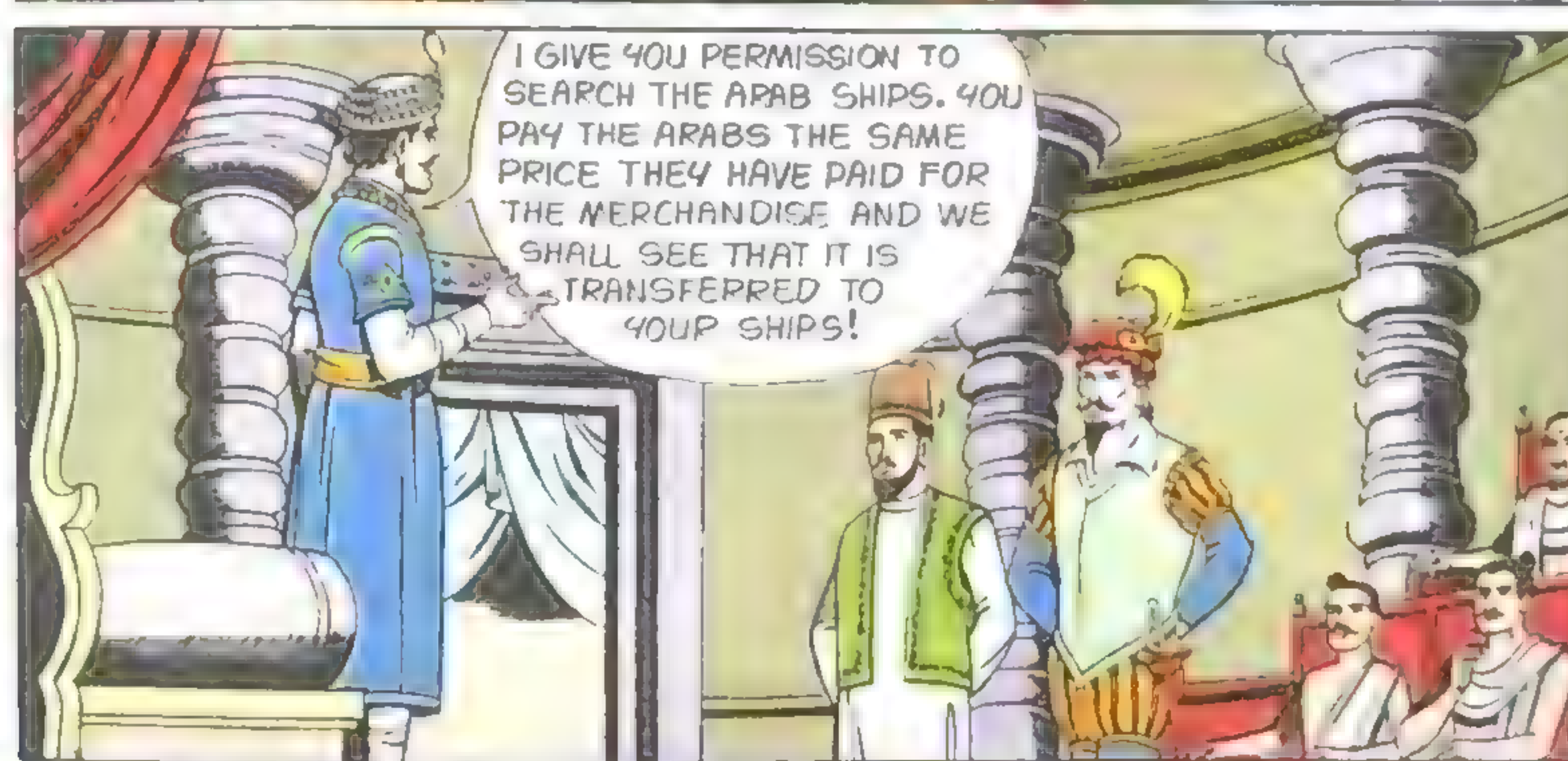
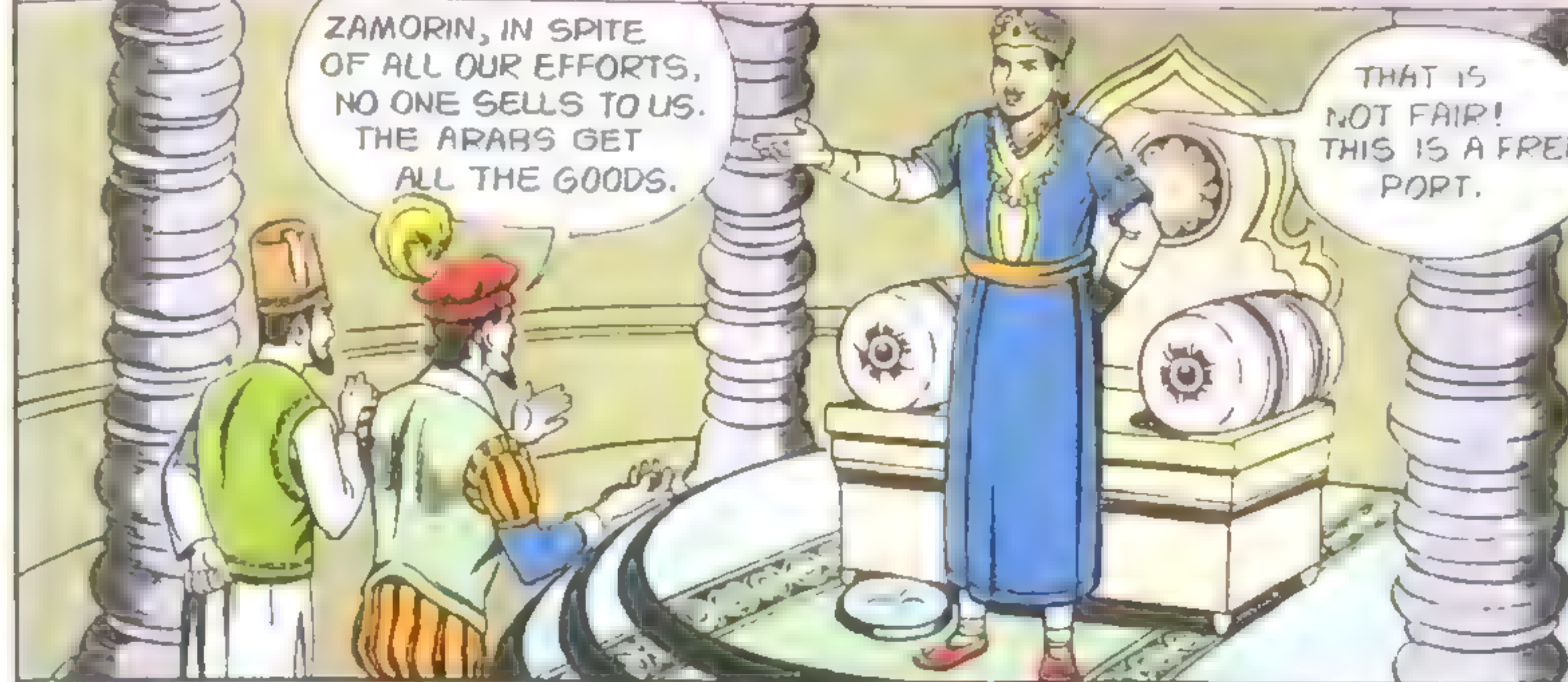




CABRAL WON OVER THE NEW ZAMORIN BY SETTING FREE THE MEN VASCO DA GAMA HAD TAKEN AS HOSTAGES. LATER CABRAL CALLED ON THE ZAMORIN.



...BUT, THE PORTUGUESE WERE NOT ABLE TO GET ENOUGH LADING FOR THEIR SHIPS.





THE ARABS WERE SWIFT TO RETALIATE. THEY ATTACKED THE PORTUGUESE WAREHOUSE.



IN THE FIERCE FIGHTING WHICH FOLLOWED, THE PORTUGUESE LOST MANY LIVES.



THE NEXT DAY THE ARABS COMPLAINED TO THE ZAMORIN.



WHAT WE HAD TOLD YOU HAS COME TRUE. THE FIRANGEES ARE NOT SEA TRADERS. THEY ARE PIRATES.

THEY PLUNDERED OUR SHIPS LAST NIGHT.

I ASSURE YOU OF OUR PROTECTION. I WANT TRADE TO FLOURISH

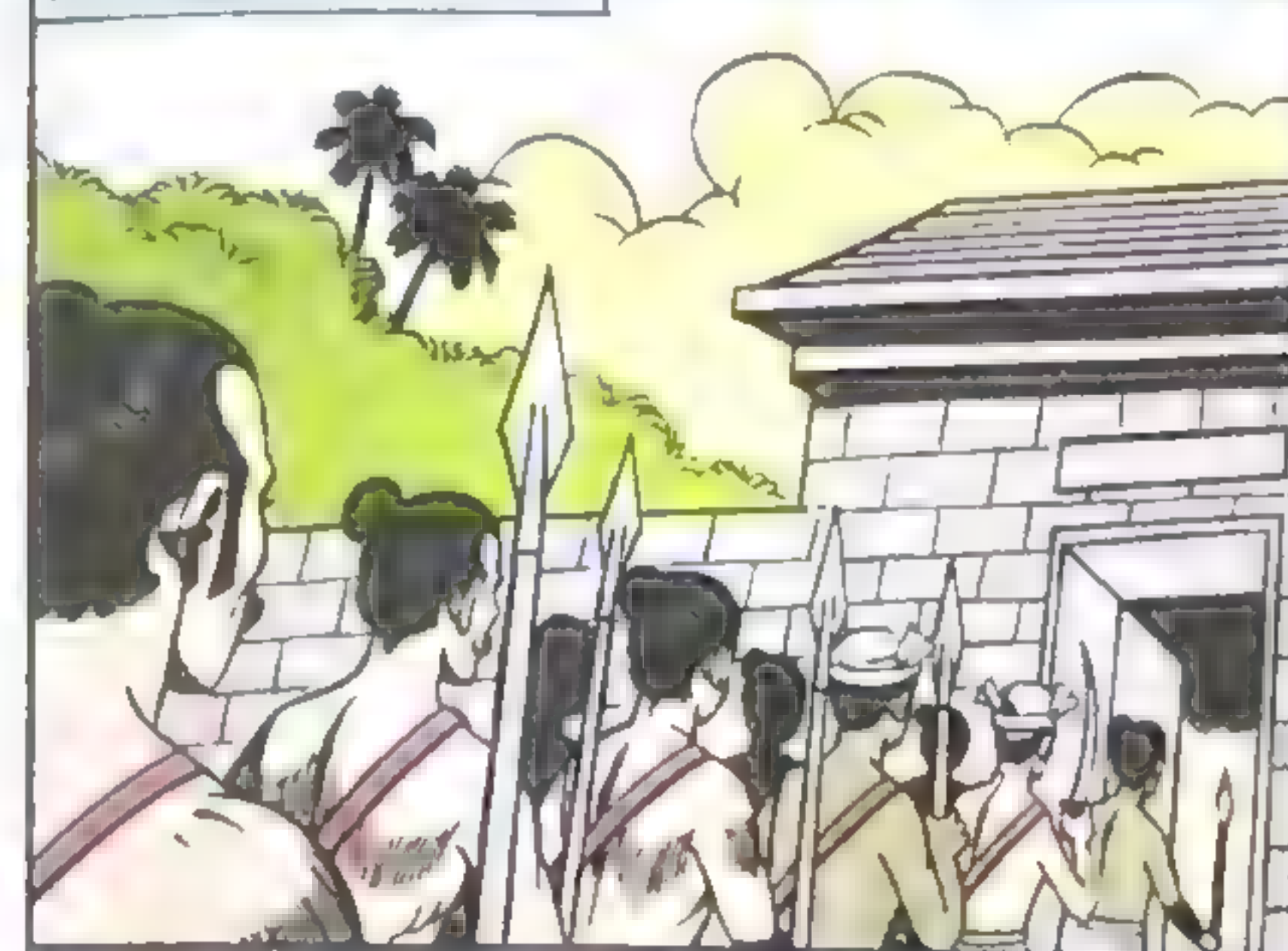


THE ZAMORIN RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM THE PORTUGUESE TOO.



I WILL HOLD AN ENQUIRY. MEANWHILE I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO TAKE THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS.

THE ZAMORIN SENT HIS MEN TO THE PORTUGUESE FACTORY TO GUARD IT FROM ANY POSSIBLE ATTACK.

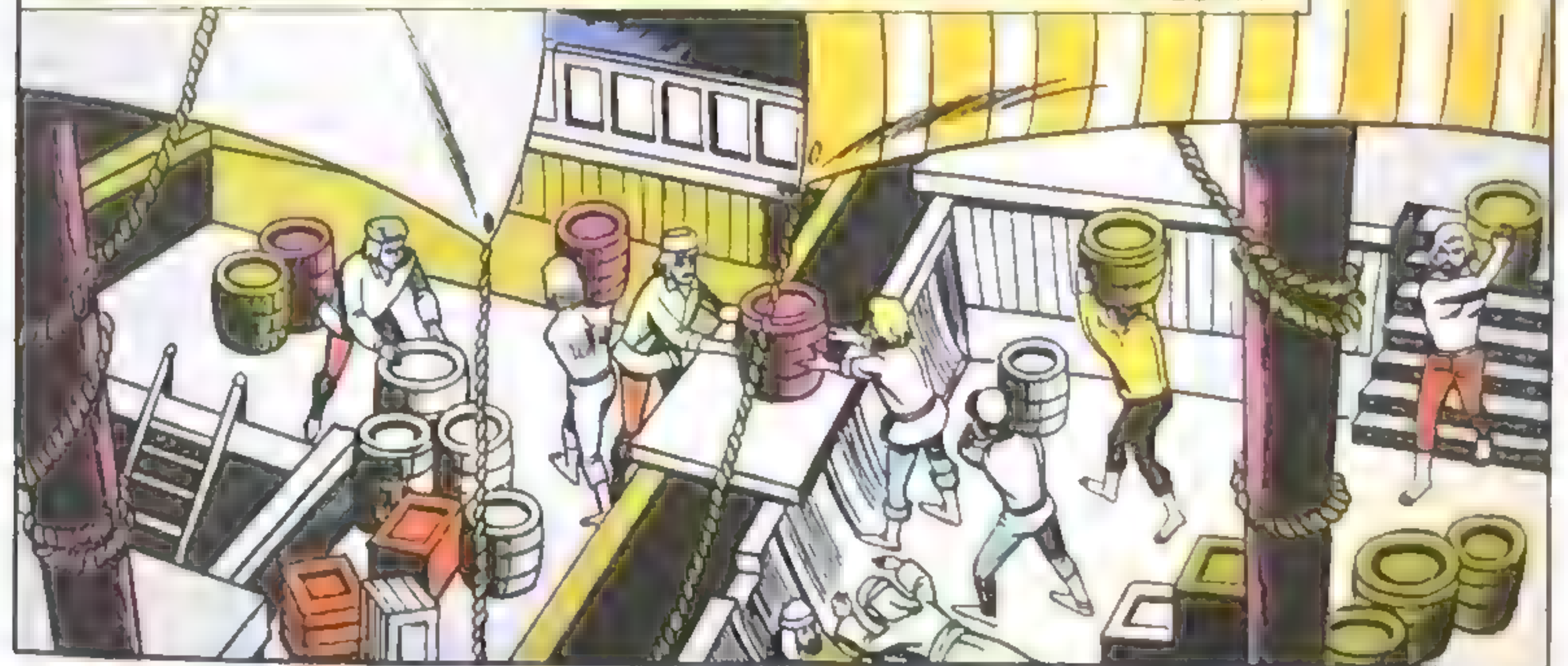


CABRAL HOWEVER MISUNDERSTOOD HIS INTENTIONS.



SO THE ZAMORIN SIDES WITH ARABS AND HAS SENT HIS MEN TO KEEP A WATCH ON US. HM -M-M.

CABRAL ORDERED HIS MEN TO SEIZE THE ARAB SHIPS IN THE HARBOUR.



THE ARAB SHIPS WERE RANSACKED AND SENT OUT TO SEA IN FLAMES.



THIS SAVAGE MASSACRE OF ARABS ANGERED THE LOCAL PEOPLE. THEY DESTROYED THE TRADE MART OF THE PORTUGUESE AND KILLED HALF THE PORTUGUESE ON LAND.

SO CABRAL SAILED FOR COCHIN.



I HAVE HEARD THAT THE RAJA OF COCHIN IS A SWORN ENEMY OF THE ZAMORIN. HE WILL AGREE TO BECOME OUR ALLY.



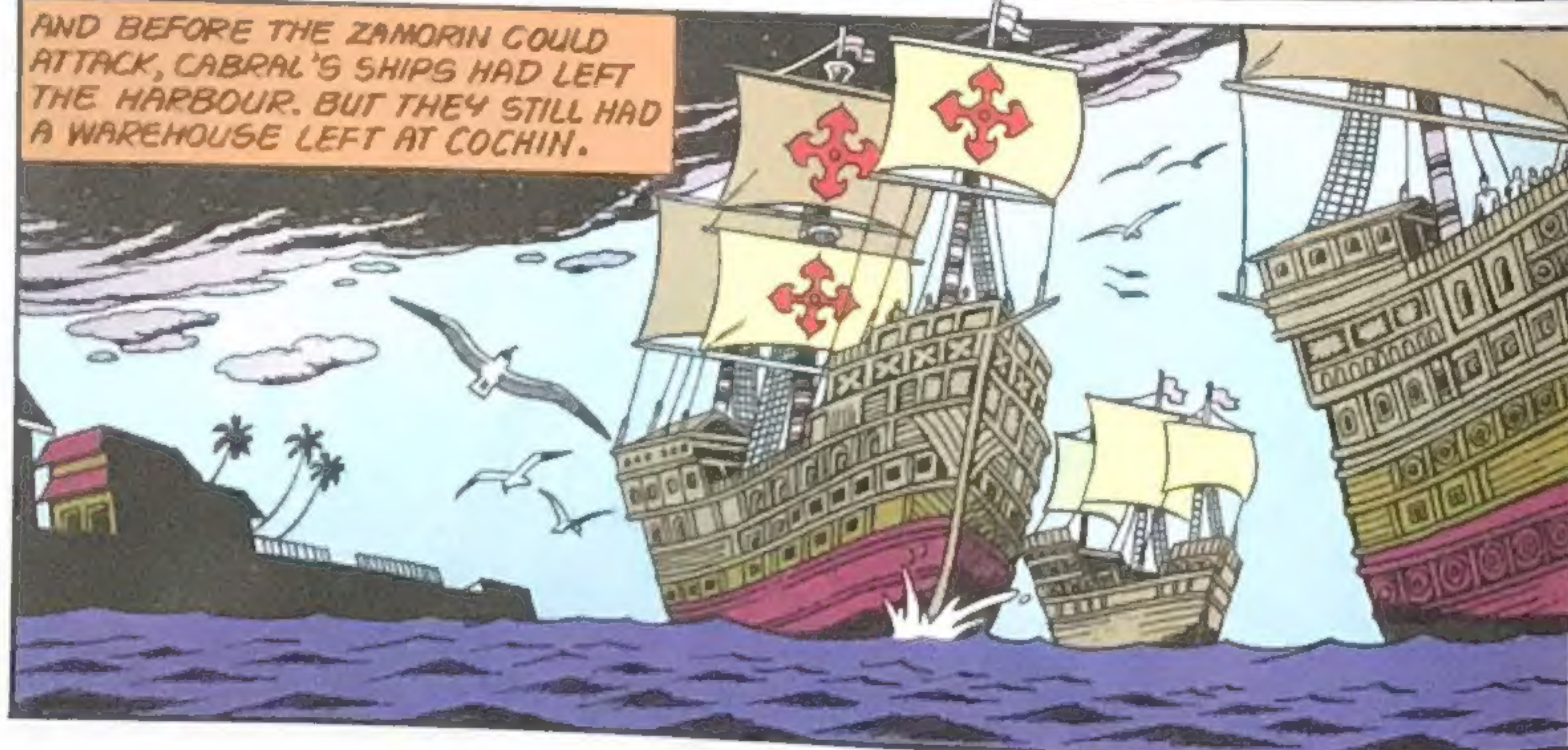
AT COCHIN —



AFTER A FEW DAYS —



AND BEFORE THE ZAMORIN COULD ATTACK, CABRAL'S SHIPS HAD LEFT THE HARBOUR. BUT THEY STILL HAD A WAREHOUSE LEFT AT COCHIN.

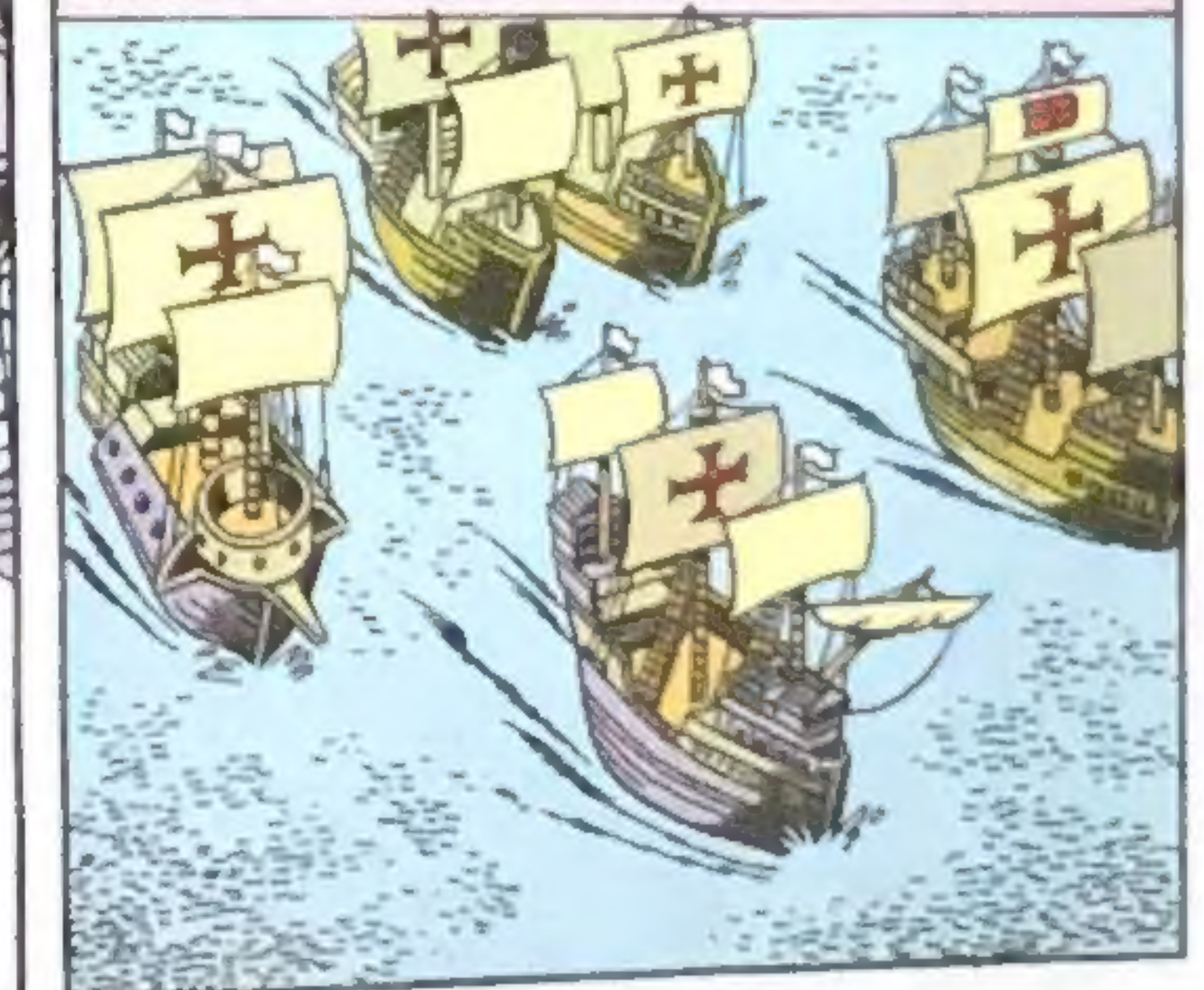


SEA ROUTE TO INDIA

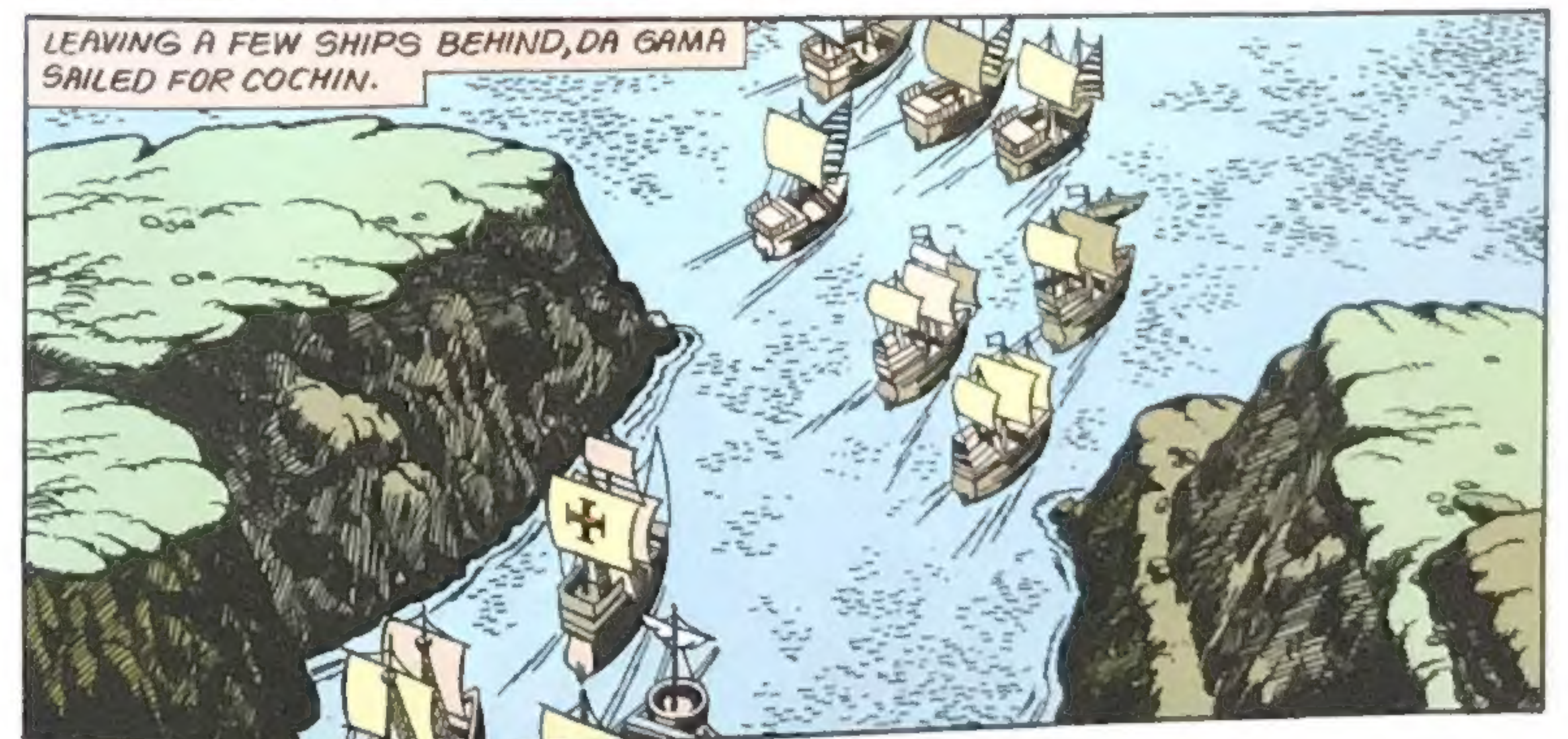
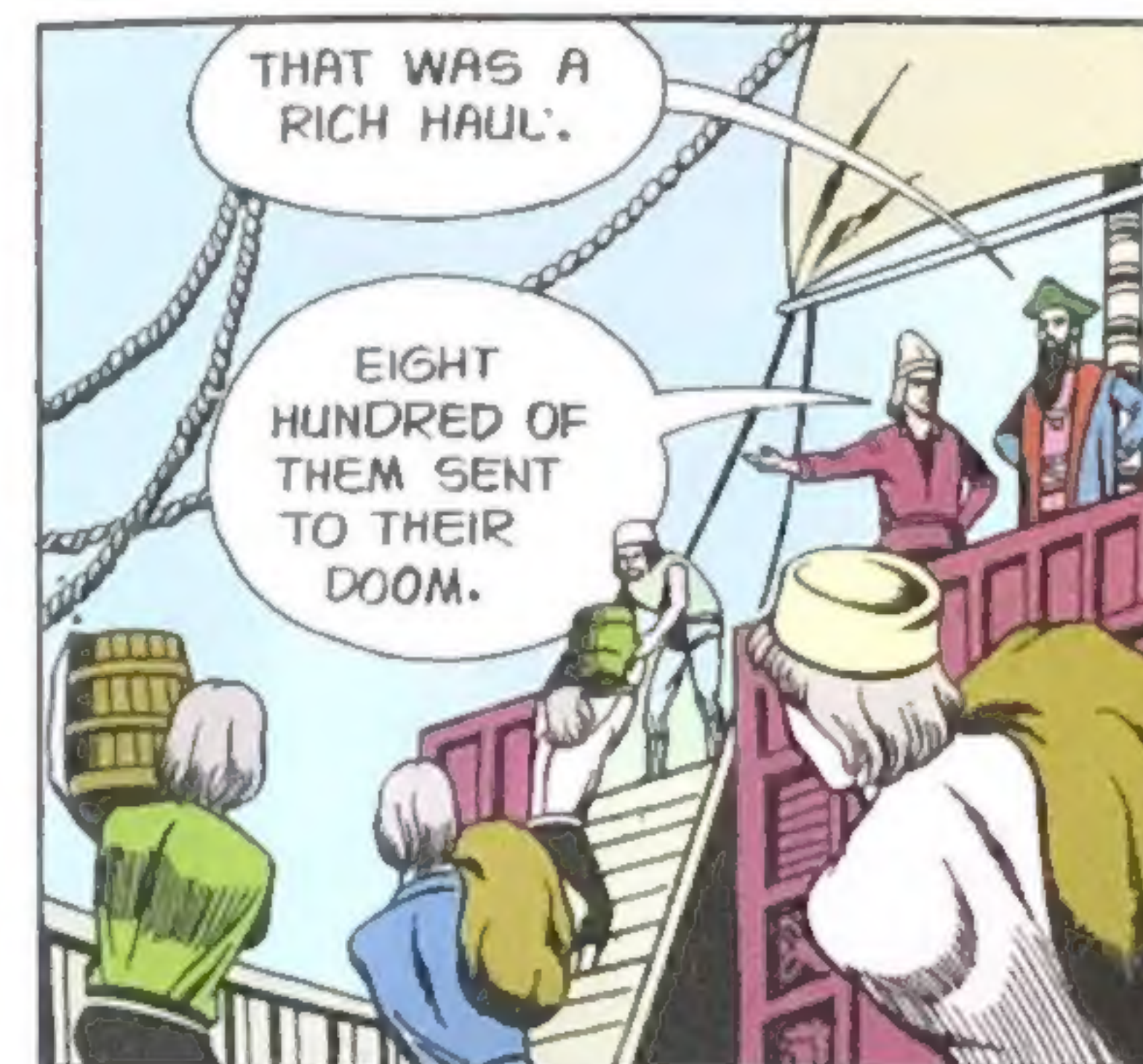
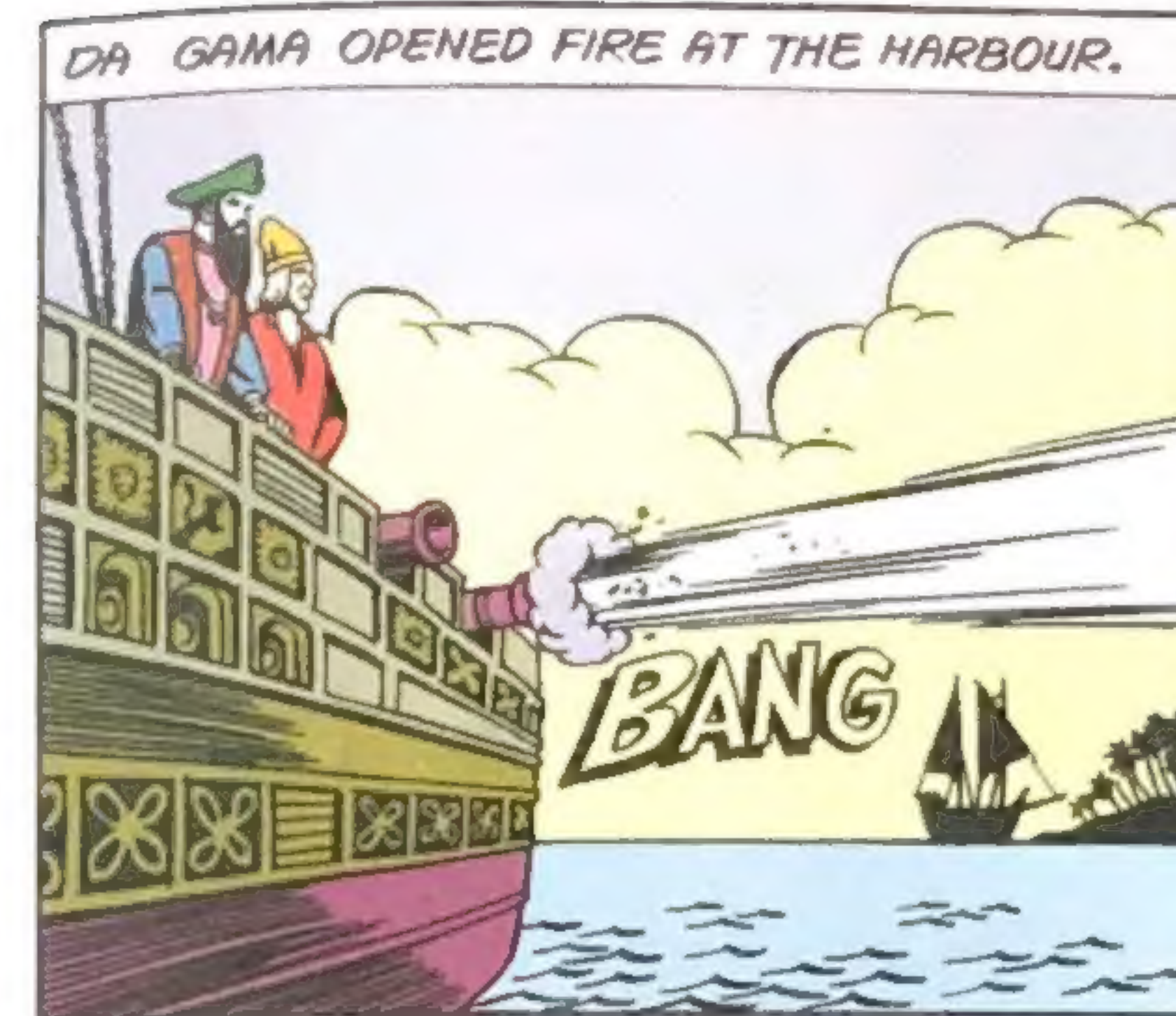
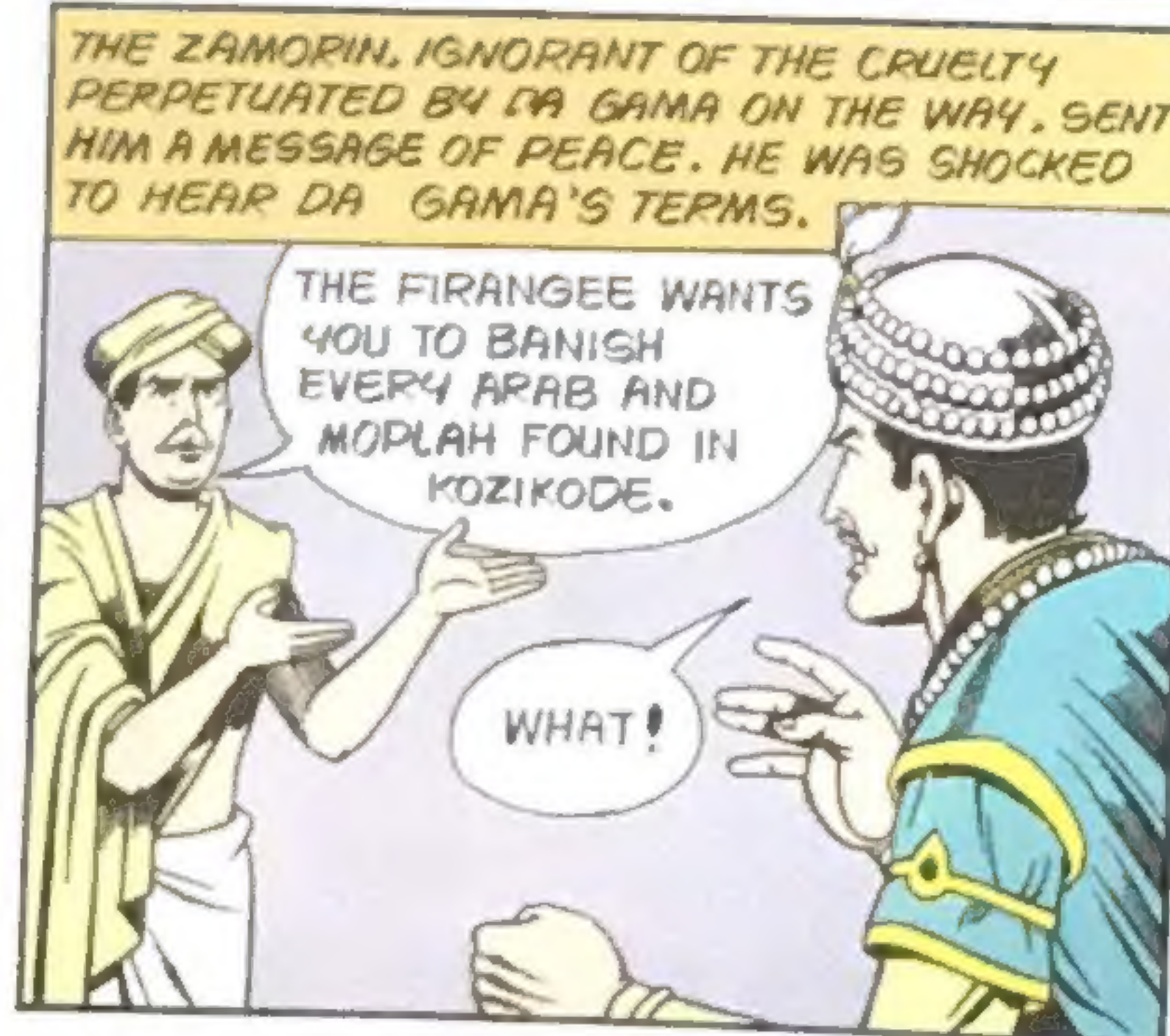
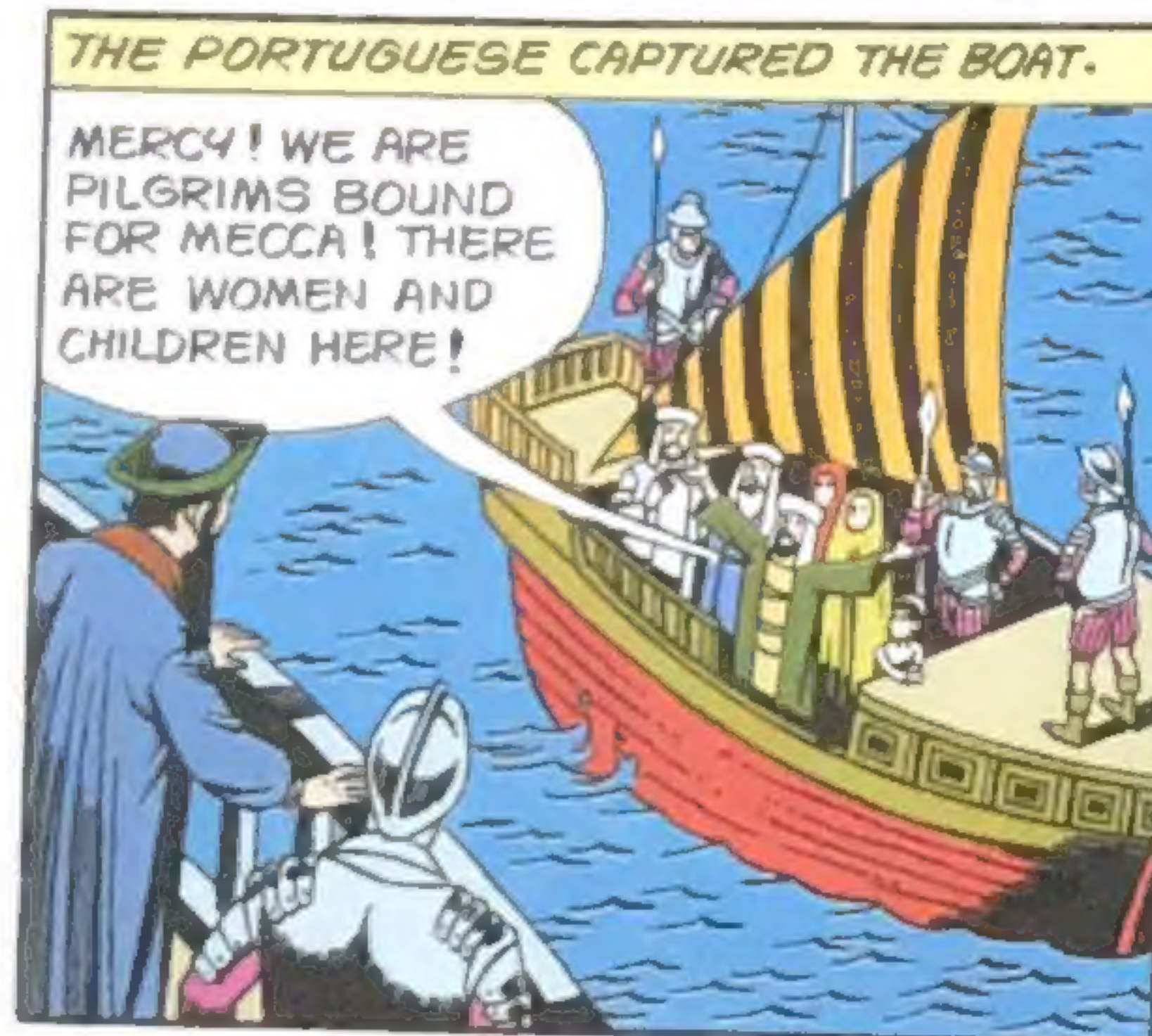
PORTUGAL GAINED MUCH PROFIT FROM THE FIRST FEW VOYAGES. AND MUCH VALUABLE EXPERIENCE.



A POWERFUL FLEET WITH VASCO DA GAMA IN COMMAND SAILED IN 1502.

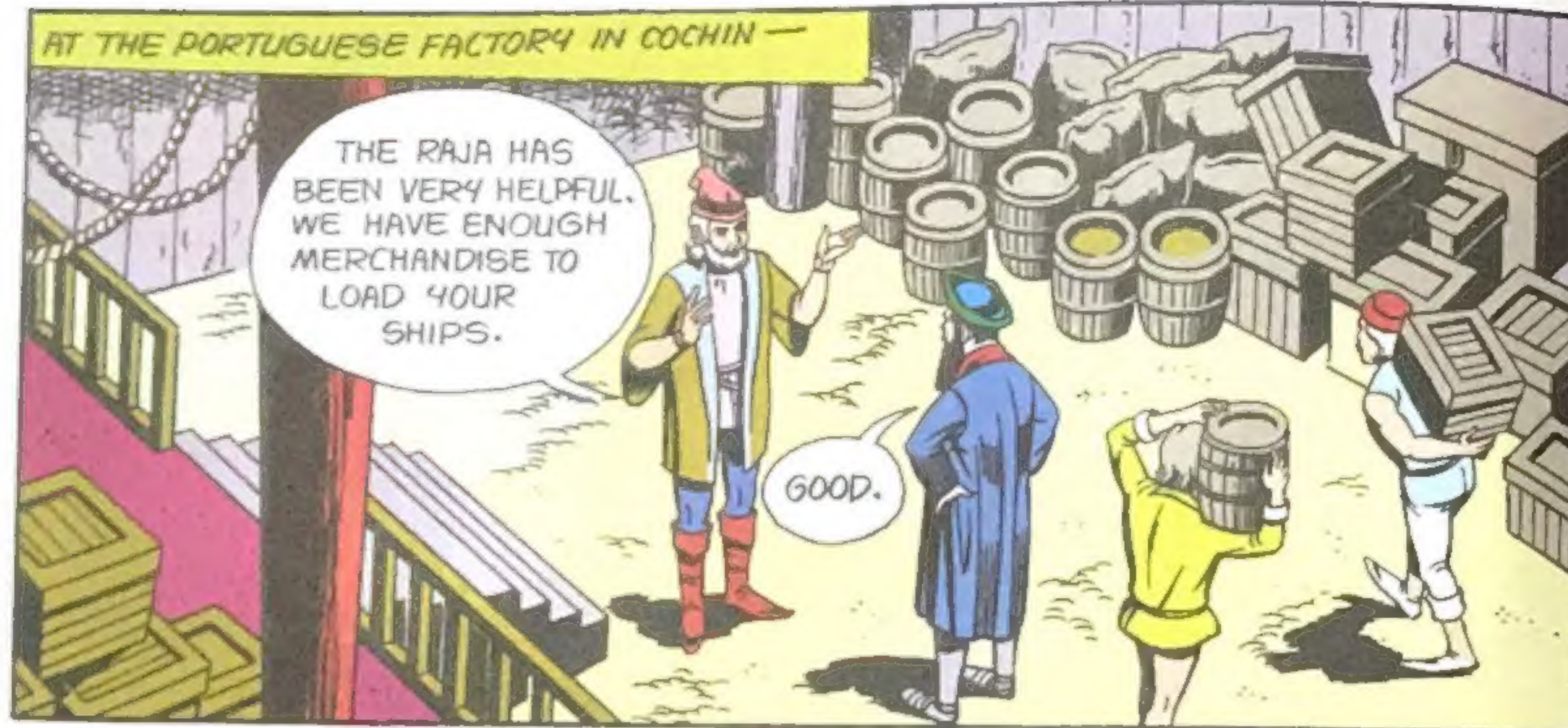




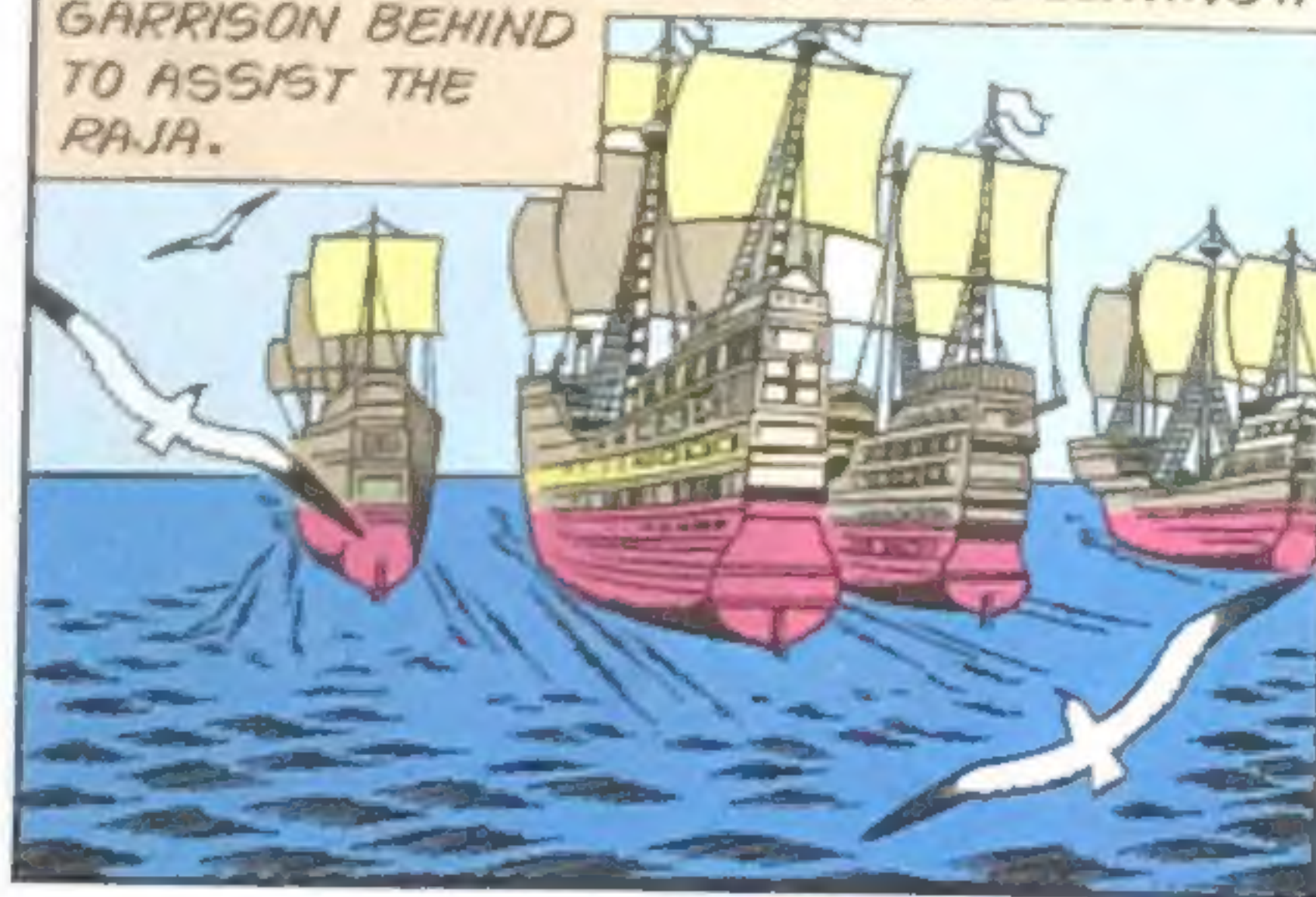




AT THE PORTUGUESE FACTORY IN COCHIN —



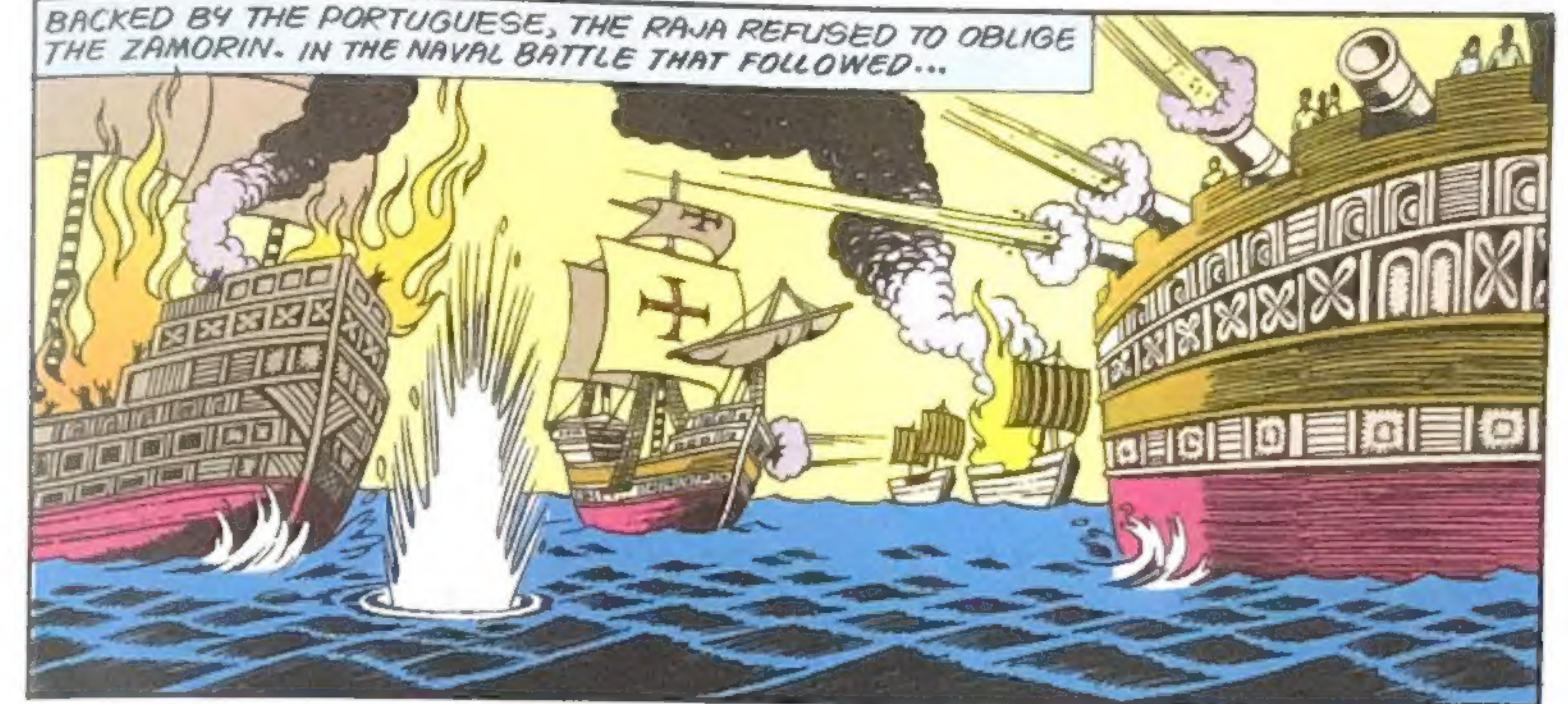
VASCO DA GAMA KNEW THAT THE ZAMORIN WAS CERTAIN TO MOUNT AN ATTACK ON COCHIN. AS SOON AS HIS SHIPS WERE LOADED WITH MERCHANDISE HE LEFT FOR HOME LEAVING A GARRISON BEHIND TO ASSIST THE RAJA.



MEANWHILE AT CALICUT —



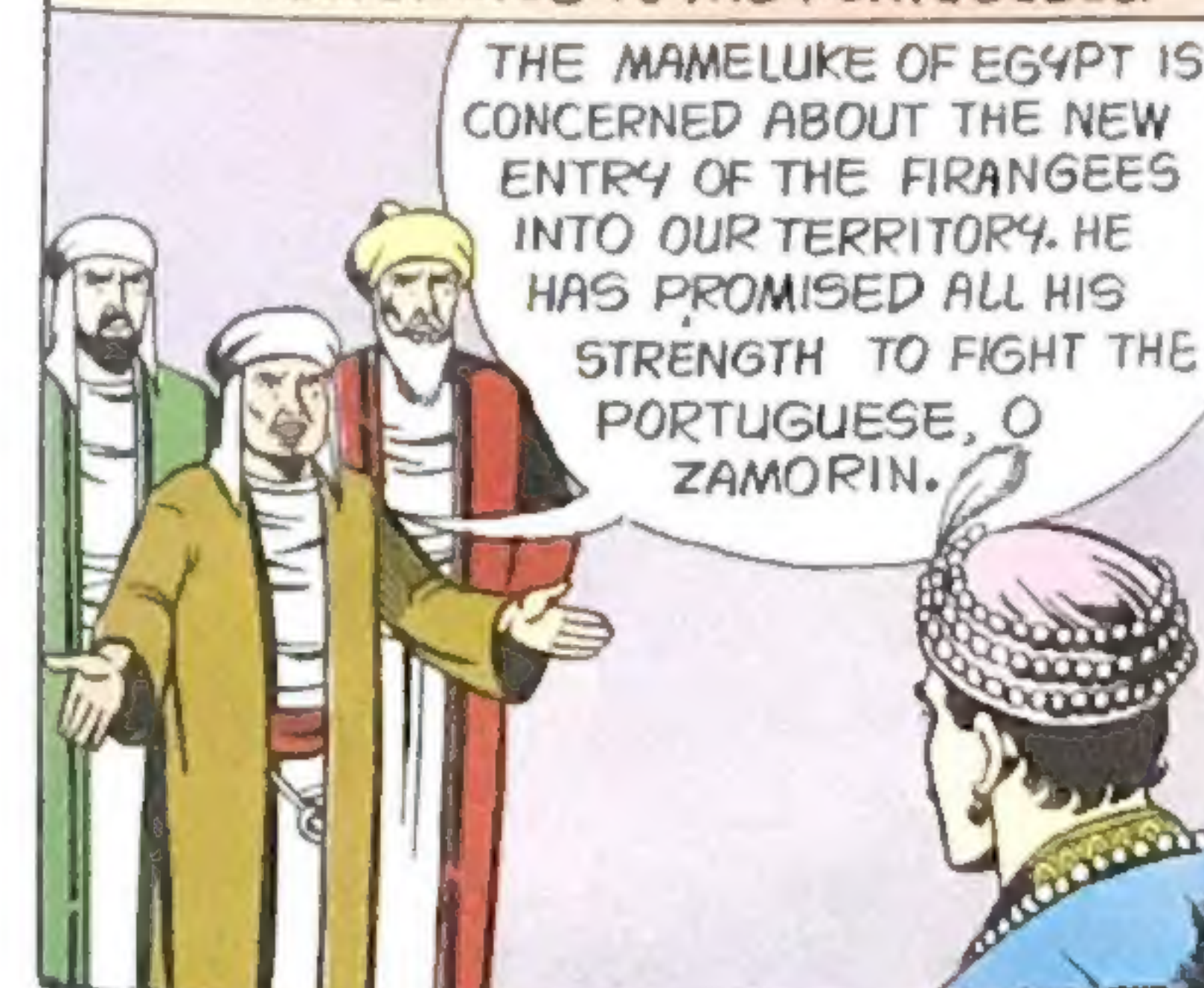
BACKED BY THE PORTUGUESE, THE RAJA REFUSED TO OBLIGE THE ZAMORIN. IN THE NAVAL BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED...



...THE ZAMORIN COULD NOT FORCE A DECISIVE VICTORY. THEN THE MONSOON BROKE OUT.

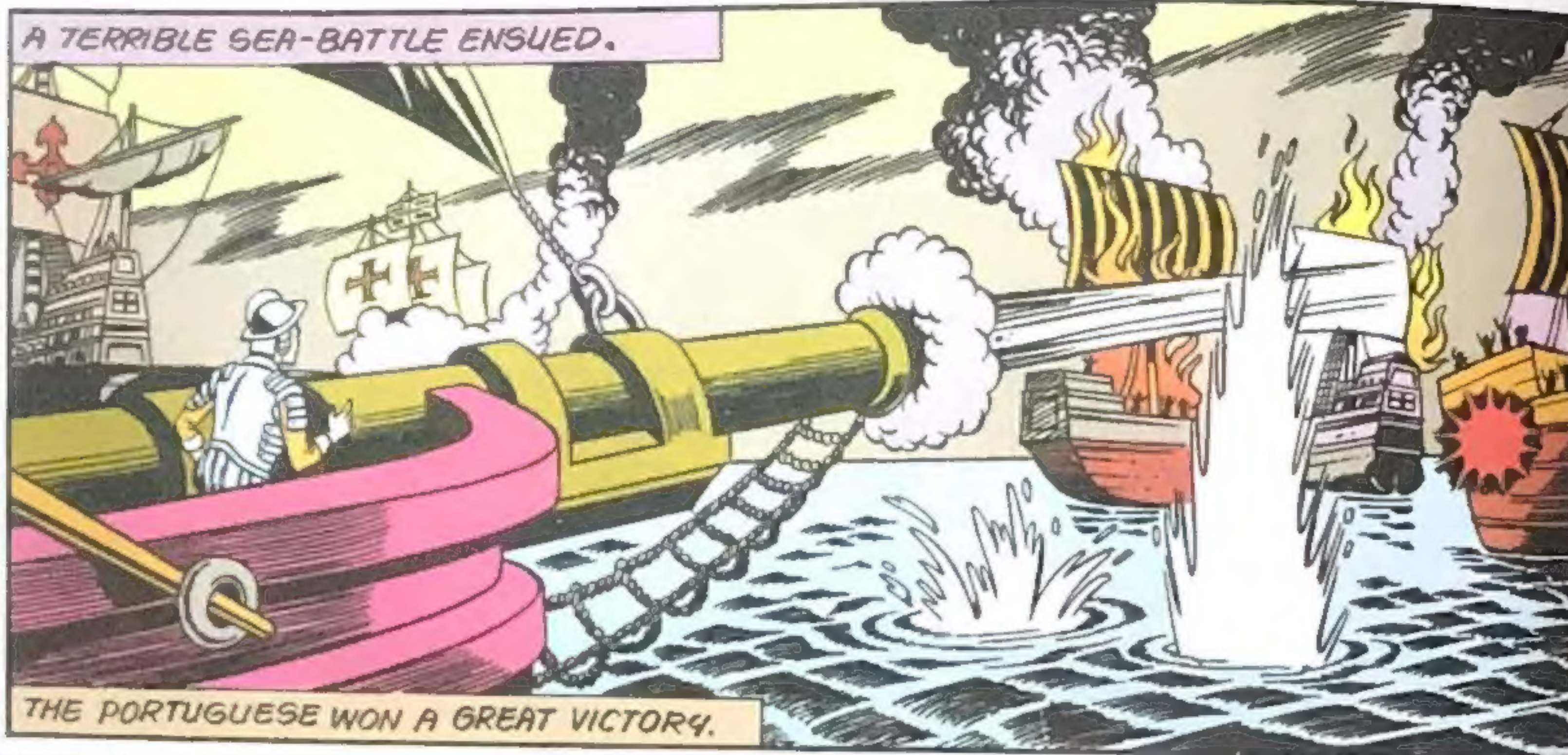


THE ZAMORIN CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO BUILD RESISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE.





**A TERRIBLE SEA-BATTLE ENSUED.**



**THE PORTUGUESE WON A GREAT VICTORY.**

THE PORTUGUESE DECIDED TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR GAINS. IN 1505 FRANCISCO DE ALMEIDA WAS APPOINTED THE FIRST VICEROY OF THE PORTUGUESE IN THE EAST. ALBUQUERQUE, THE NEXT GOVERNOR, BUILT UP A GREAT TERRITORIAL POWER IN INDIA.



ALBUQUERQUE CAPTURED GOA IN 1609. WITHIN A PERIOD OF 16 YEARS FROM VASCO DA GAMA'S LANDING IN CALCUT, PORTUGAL COMMANDED TOTAL SWAY OVER THE ENTIRE INDIAN OCEAN— A SWAY WHICH WAS TO LAST FOR A CENTURY! THEIR FORTS GUARDED MOZAMBIQUE, AT THE ENTRY TO THE INDIAN OCEAN; THEY CAPTURED THE MALAYAN ARCHIPELAGO, THE SOURCE OF SPICES; AND HELD ORMUZ AT THE OUTLET TO THE PERSIAN GULF. GOA HAD BEEN MADE THE CAPITAL OF PORTUGAL IN THE EAST. THE CONTROL OF THE SEA ROUTE, AND WITH IT THE TRADE IN ORIENTAL GOODS, HAD GONE TO THE EUROPEAN NATIONS.



**WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?**

**EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY**

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu  
Agastya  
Andhaka  
Aniruddha  
Aruni And Ulfanka  
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Dhruva And Ashtavakra  
Draupadi  
Drona  
Elephanta  
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Karna  
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Konark  
Krishna  
Krishna And Jarasandha  
Krishna And Narakasura  
Krishna And Rukmini  
Krishna And Shishupala  
Krishna And The False  
Vaasudeva  
Kubera  
Kumbhakarna  
Mahabharata  
Mahiravana  
Nachiketa  
Nahusha  
Nala Damayanti  
Pareekshit  
Parashurama  
Prabhavati  
Pradyumna  
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Purushottam Dev And  
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Rama  
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Tales Of Vishnu  
Tales Of Yudhishtira  
Tapati  
Thanjavur  
The Churning Of The  
Ocean  
The Gita  
The Golden Mongoose  
The King In  
A Parrot's Body  
The Lord Of Lanka  
The Pandava Princes  
The Pandavas In Hiding  
The Parjata Tree  
The Sons Of Rama  
The Syamantaka Gem  
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Guru Har Gobind  
Guru Nanak  
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